Court denies pregnant inmate's bid for early release. PAGE 2
Juan 'John' Igisomar still missing. PAGE 4

Hafa Adai!

$1

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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1 dead, 1 hurt in Paseo stabbing

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

A man was killed and another is in critical condition after being stabbed at the Paseo de Marianas early Monday morning—the second such stabbing incident at the Paseo de Marianas this year.

According to a Department of Public Safety news release yesterday, one of the victims was trying to break up a fight between the suspect and the other victim when he was also stabbed. It was not immediately clear which one of the two victims died.

The DPS news release said that the incident happened in front of the former Famous Shoes establishment at the Paseo.

Reportedly, DPS received a call regarding the stabbing incident at about 2:04am of

See 1 DEAD on Page 4

BIRTHDAY LITERACY AT JKPL

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library hosted the Birthday Literacy@ My Library Program last April to provide families with a free, fun, and convenient way to host a child's birthday celebration at the library. Families were given an hour-and-a-half to celebrate their child's birthday in the Children's Library. Families select from pre-existing library themes, while library staff conduct a storywalk and mini library tour, read aloud, and arts and craft activity. The birthday celebrant received a special honorary certificate making them a Junior Librarian for the Day.

CCC, IPI to face off in May 24 hearing

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC is set to appear before the Commonwealth Casino Commission on May 24 to answer to the five enforcement actions made against it for failing to comply with a number of requirements under its exclusive license agreement.

Yeom

In an interview with CCC executive director Andrew Yeom, he said that IPI, through authorized representative Tao Xing, will appear before the CCC board on May 24 to face the five enforcement actions he has filed against the casino investor.

"I filed five enforcement actions against IPI—all basically seeking for revocation. On May 24, I and our expert witnesses will face IPI and their witness to discuss these enforcement actions," he said.

According to Yeom, the five enforcement actions relate to IPI's failure to pay its annual

See CCC on Page 4

CNMI team places 3rd in biz startup contest

A team from the CNMI has placed third in a sustainability-focused business startup competition hosted by the University of Guam Entrepreneur Society student organization.

The team, called "Recycle to Print," came up with the idea to take recycled materials and create useful objects using a 3D printer.Its members are Kirsten Jensen, Anushi Joshi, Sharon Paek, and Vicente Juan Ythemar.

They were one of seven sustainability-focused business ideas from teams representing CNMI, Guam, Palau, Pohnpei, and Yap that participated in the Startup Weekend Micronesia "Solve 2Day, Evolve 2Morrow"event hosted online from April 27 to April 29.

The first-place award went to SCRAP of Pohnpei. The concept is sustainable conservation recycling of agricultural products . Its members are Celena Albis, Isabel Emrhe-

See CNMI on Page 4

With Marcos Jr. tipped to win, Philippines at tenuous moment

By JIM GOMEZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Filipinos stood in long lines to choose a new president Monday, with the son of an ousted dictator and a champion of human rights the top contenders in a tenuous moment in a deeply divided Asian democracy.

Ferdinand Marcos Jr., the son and namesake of the strongman ousted in a 1986 army-backed "People Power" uprising, held a seemingly insurmountable lead in pre-election surveys. But his closest challenger, Vice President Leni Robredo, has tapped into shock and outrage over the prospect of a Marcos recapturing the seat of power and harnessed a network of campaign volunteers to underpin her candidacy.

See MARCOS JR. on Page 4

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

INSIDE

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CHCC holds an employee training on how to provide services for the LGBTQ+ community.
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WORLD
Jill Biden makes a surprise visit to western Ukraine and meets with first lady Olena Zelenskiyy.
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LIFE & STYLE
Ncuti Gatwa will take the mantle from Jodie Whittaker on "Doctor Who."
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GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

Court denies pregnant inmate's bid for compassionate release

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

The U.S. District Court for the NMI has denied a pregnant inmate's motion for compassionate release after determining that she has not demonstrated "compelling reasons" that will qualify her to be released early.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona denied last Friday, May 6, Vickilyn Manglona Teregeyo's motion for compassionate release, citing her history of drug use. Teregeyo is eight months pregnant and is due to give birth on May 12.

"The court is mindful of the impacts of separating babies from their mothers, and a decision to do so is not done lightly. But the court finds that defendant has not demonstrated extraordinary and compelling reasons for compassionate release, and that her history with methamphetamine use rather demonstrates that she poses a danger to the safety of her soon-to-be-born baby. For the foregoing reasons, Teregeyo's motion for compassionate release is denied," states Manglona's decision.

Manglona stated that she is unpersuaded by Teregeyo's argument on the need to bond with the baby, "given her history of testing positive for methamphetamine while pregnant and even after giving birth—in complete disregard for the safety for her unborn and newly-born children."

Teregeyo, who is currently serving a three-month sentence, asked the court last April 19 for compassionate release, with her lawyer stating that "there is no nursery or mother-infant program, such as the one the [federal] Bureau of Prisons provides its expecting inmates. Without compassionate release, she will be separated from her newborn almost immediately after she gives birth, and mother and newborn will have no contact during the first several weeks of the newborn's life."

Teregeyo also wants to serve her three months of home confinement first, then report back to the Department of Corrections to serve the remainder of her prison sentence.

"This release will allow her to deliver her baby while outside of prison and bond with her newborn," said Richard Miller, Teregeyo's lawyer.

Teregeyo further argued that "COVID-19 warrants compassionate release, as her pregnancy places her at an increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19 for at least 42 days following the end of pregnancy, as well as her substance abuse disorder."

The U.S. Attorney's Office had opposed Teregeyo's request due to the court having already considered Teregeyo's reasons as grounds for compassionate release when it sentenced her to three months imprisonment followed by three months home confinement at a revocation hearing last March 25.

"Since that revocation hearing, there have been no substantial changes to defendant's circumstances, besides the fact that defendant is closer to her pregnancy due date. Indeed, defendant is actually now in a worse position to request compassionate release because the laboratory analysis of defendant's urine sample taken at her revocation hearing on March 25, 2022, confirmed she had methamphetamine in her system and methamphetamine was found inside her jail cell on March 27, 2022," said assistant U.S. Attorney Garth Backe.

On March 26, 2021, the court revoked Teregeyo's "term of supervised release and sentenced her to three months of imprisonment followed by 33 months of supervised release given her numerous instances of testing positive for methamphetamine in violation of her conditions of supervised release."

On May 24, 2019, Teregeyo was sentenced to time served for her drug conviction followed by three years of supervised release. Teregeyo was ordered not to unlawfully possess or use a controlled substance.

Teregeyo was first indicted by the grand jury on April 11, 2018, in the District Court of Guam for two counts of drug use in possession of firearms and ammunition and pleaded guilty to June 27, 2018.

NORTHERN MARIANAS
PACIFIC MINI GAMES
2022
TRIATHLON
Swim strong, Bike fast & Run to win!
Triathlon has not appeared at a Pacific Mini Games since Palau hosted the event in 2005. Back then, Northern Mariana Islands claimed the Women's gold, but at the Pacific Games, since that time, New Caledonia and Tahiti have dominated this event in both the Men's and Women's categories.
GAME IS ON! June 17 - 25, 2022
*STOCK PHOTO ONLY
Participating Countries
9
Competition Schedule
20 - 22 Jun 2022
Competition Venue
Rota
Number of Athletes
54
PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES
American Samoa
Fiji
Guam
New Caledonia
Northern Mariana Islands
Palau
Samoa
Solomon Islands
Tahiti
www.northernmarianas2022.com

NMTech meets with Guam Contractors Association and GCA Trades Academy

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Northern Marianas Trades Institute chief executive officer Jodina Attao, middle, poses with some members of the Guam Contractors Association during a two-day visit to Guam last April 18 and 19.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Northern Marianas Trades Institute representatives pose for a photo with some members of the GCA Trades Academy in Guam during the two-day visit in April 18 and 19.

Representatives of the Northern Marianas Trades Institute and U.S. Economic Development Administration met the Guam Contractors Association and GCA - Trades Academy last April 18 and 19 and learned about the programs offered and other operational components of the association and the GCA Trades Academy.

The CNMI team was led by NMTech chief executive officer Jodina Attao, human resources and operations manager Charlene Quitano, and the USEDA construction project inspector Sydney "Rip" Stephanson.

NMTech also attended the GCA monthly membership meeting that consists of about 75% of Guam's contractors. Attao described it as "a great learning experience."

The NMTech team was able to meet with Mark Perez and Theresa Tayama from the Guam Department of Corrections; Mark Mendiola, chairman of the Guam Education Board; Joe Sanchez, deputy superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction at the Guam Department of Education; and board members of the Trades Academy.

"We were able to gather insight on the Trades Academy's EDA Construction Project completion, National Center for Construction and Education Research Administration, and other invaluable information relevant to NMTech. We spent an entire day with Guam Contractors Association president James Martinez and his awesome team for a walk through on the great work they have been doing with the association for the past 63 years. NMTech intends to start a CNMI Chapter under Guam's umbrella," said Attao.

She said NMTech "would like to assist construction contractors create a healthy competition to elevate the standards in which we provide services to the Commonwealth; actively pursue our work with the CNMI Department of Labor Registered Apprenticeship Program, and build capacity toward workforce development."

Attao credits GCA Trades Academy executive director Dr. Bert Johnston for being a mentor since last year. Johnston has previously traveled to Saipan to provide guidance and support on the NCCER accredited curricula that NMTech offers.

"We are grateful to Dr. Johnston, his team, and to the beautiful people of Guam who took time out of their busy schedules to accommodate us during our time there," said Attao.

NMI homeland security delegation talks modernization, partnership with Guam

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Dennis Mendiola, special assistant for CNMI Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, led a delegation that met with Guam Homeland Security/Office of Civil Defense officials last May 4 to discuss modernization initiatives in addition to exploring opportunities for enhanced partnership agreements between the CNMI and Guam.

A CNMI delegation led by Dennis Mendiola, special assistant for the CNMI Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, met with Guam Homeland Security/Office of Civil Defense officials last May 4 to discuss modernization initiatives in addition to exploring opportunities for enhanced partnership agreements between the CNMI and Guam.

Mendiola, Emergency Management director Joey Dela Cruz, and Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' chief of staff Wil Castro met with Guam Homeland Security adviser Samantha Brennan, Emergency Medical Dispatch supervisor Paul Rolinski, and other emergency response staff.

"This partnership is important to better protect our residents and homeland against threats as well as how to best recover from manmade or natural disasters. I want to thank and build upon the work of my predecessor, former HSEM special assistant Gerald Guerrero. He set a solid foundation for the Commonwealth with the One Marianas approach to protecting our homeland under the direction of Gov. Torres these past years," said Mendiola.

Mendiola seeks to modernize emergency communications throughout the Marianas to improve the HSEM's effort to combat terrorism and targeted violence, enhance cybersecurity, secure ports of entry, and ensuring disaster readiness.

"We are grateful our partnerships with our closest neighbors remain strong and we stand ready to support one another. I look forward to collaborating further on projects such as this, and more," said Brennan. ***(PR)***

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Rizalito P. Tabago **Petitioner**	:	**FCD -DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 21-0378**
-vs-		
Michelle Madriaga **Respondent**	:	**SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the Court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to delivery or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 501607 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear until further notice. If you fail to file a answer in accordance with this Summons, Judgment by Default may be taken against you for relief in the Complaint.

Dated this 18th day of April, 2022.

/s/_____
CLERK OF THIS COURT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) MVA-RFP-22-2051

Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism Resumption Investment Plan (TRIP)-Airlines

Submission/Closing Date: **May 13, 2022 Time: 10:00am ChST**
Submit sealed proposal to: Marianas Visitors Authority
San Jose Professional Building
Beach Rd., San Jose
P.O. Box 500861, Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the RFP package on or after April 29, 2022 at the Marianas Visitors Authority Office, San Jose Professional Building, Beach Road, San Jose, Saipan, during the hours of 8:00AM-12:00PM and 1:00PM-5:00PM., Monday through Friday, except holidays. The RFP package can be emailed to anyone interested. The request via email must reference **"MVA-RFP-22-2051 MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY TRIP-AIRLINES"** in the subject line to lmaratita@mymarianas.com.

/s/ Ellsbeth Viola Alepuyo
Chairperson, MVA Board of Directors

/s/ Priscilla M. Iakopo
Managing Director, MVA

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

ELEMENTARY/SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS (2): Elementary School Teacher – Prepare, teach, and facilitate lessons and monitor and manage students in classroom in accordance to the set objectives of the school curriculum. Give assignments, grade, and provide feedback on student work. Complete general administrative work and participate in extracurricular activities. Education: Bachelor's in Primary or Secondary Education; Experience: 24 Months as an Elementary, Middle, or Secondary School Teacher. Send Resume to: Green Meadow School, Attn: Milagros Songcuan, P.O. Box 502862, MP 96950.

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-22-014

SEWER MAIN REPLACEMENT PHASE II (ROYAL PALM AVENUE AND GINGER AVENUE – GARAPAN)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Sewer Main Replacement Phase II (Royal Palm Avenue and Ginger Avenue – Garapan) in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists of but not limited to the installation of gravity sewer main, new sewer manholes, new service laterals, connection to existing service laterals, and the abandonment of existing sewerline, removal and disposal of existing sewer manholes.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and CUC. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the project to be completed in **300 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **May 11, 2022 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No. 17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid MUST be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-22-014, Sewer Main Replacement Phase II (Royal Palm Avenue and Ginger Avenue – Garapan)"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on June 1, 2022**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding if the bid requirements in the course of the Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the Unites States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one Hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 13, 2022** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC's Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org, with a copy to Larry Manacop, CUC's Acting Chief Engineer via email at larry.manacop@cucgov.org, Dennis Formalejo, CUC's Engineer via email at dennis.formalejo@cucgov.org and Ms. Christie Sablan, CUC's Senior Administrative Technician via email address at christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
CUC-RFP-22-026

LEASE OF OFFICE/WAREHOUSE SPACE FOR CUC POWER DIVISION TRANSMISSION & DISTRIBUTION SECTION, SAIPAN CNMI

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from firms for the lease of office & warehouse spaces for CUC Power Division, Transmission & Distribution Section in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $50.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

One (1) original and four (5) hard copies of your submission must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-RFP-22-026, Lease of Office/Warehouse Space for CUC Power Division Transmission and Distribution Section, Saipan, CNMI"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **May 20, 2022 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. The proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 5, 2022** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC, Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Lee Lieto, CUC, Power Division Manager via email address lee.lieto@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC, Purchasing Technician, Senior via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Juan 'John' Igisomar still missing

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Juan "John" Kapileo Igisomar is still missing as of yesterday, Monday, May 9, according to the Department of Public Safety and Igisomar's brother, former senator Sixto Igisomar.

According to Department of Public Safety spokesperson Dre Pangelinan, there are still no updates regarding John Igisomar. Sixto Igisomar said the same thing yesterday via Facebook Messenger.

A Facebook post from Sixto Igisomar last Thursday, May 5, said, "John is still missing. Photo that is circulating about a body being found, that is an old photo—last March?"

Igisomar

Sixto Igisomar added that John Igisomar was last seen by family members on Easter Sunday (in April), and someone claimed to have seen him after Easter Sunday. "Thank you to Jimbo (Simeon Nepaial), Manny Mangarero, and John Tagabuelal for heading the search party."

Additionally, Sixto Igisomar also extended his gratitude to family members who are helping via "'Jimbo's' house (HQ) in our ranch in Chalan Kiya, and to everyone volunteering their time to help us search for John. And thank you to Aunty Terry of Bolis, CAO (Carolinian Affairs Office), Gov. Ralph Torres, Sen. Vinnie, Se. JQ., Congressman Angel Demapan, and Congressman Lee Pan, for your help and donations (water, and in-kind support)."

"We the family are forever grateful," Sixto Igisomar's post added.

DPS said that police have contacted several individuals in the community in search of new information about Igisomar. The police are seeking the public's assistance in locating the missing individual. If you have information on any recent sightings or if anyone you know has any information on the whereabouts of Igisomar, call 911, 1 (670) 234-0911 or 1 (670)-664-9001.

Two COVID-19-related deaths in Guam; 46 new cases

The Guam Joint Information Center was notified of two COVID-19-related fatalities yesterday.

The 356th COVID-19-related fatality was pronounced dead on arrival at the Guam Memorial Hospital on May 8, 2022. The patient was an 81-year-old male, fully vaccinated with one booster, with underlying health conditions, who tested positive on May 8.

The 357th COVID-19-related fatality occurred at the Guam Regional Medical City on May 8, 2022. The patient was a 65-year-old male, vaccinated, with underlying health conditions, who tested positive on May 8.

"Our heartfelt prayers and condolences go out to their families during their time of mourning," said Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero. "As we move forward with recovery, we must be reminded of the dangers that this virus still poses and we must continue to take precautions to safeguard our most vulnerable."

Also, the Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services reported 46 new cases of COVID-19 from 1,489 specimens analyzed May 6 – 8, 2022:

- May 9: Five of 64 test positive for COVID-19
- May 8: 19 of 658 test positive for COVID-19
- May 7: 22 of 767 test positive for COVID-19

Ten of the cases reported yesterday are through the Department of Defense. To date, there have been a total of 48,369 officially reported cases in Guam, 357 deaths, 199 cases in active isolation, and 47,813 not in active isolation. ***(PR/Saipan Tribune)***

Over $88K now available for Rota's scholars

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Department of Finance has established an account for the Rota Municipal Scholarship and has started the process of disbursing over $88,000 to eligible scholars on Rota.

According to Sen. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota), over the weekend, she received word from Rota Municipal Scholarship Board chair Ivan Mereb informing her office that the Department of Finance has successfully established an account for Rota's local scholarship program.

"My office has received information [that]…the listing of names is currently being inputted for the processing of the awards or issuance of the scholarship checks. The total funding that is presently available is $88,509," she said.

Meanwhile, Rota students interested in pursuing higher education are strongly encouraged to submit applications to the Rota Municipal Scholarship Board. Students are also reminded to submit all required documents to avoid delay in reviewing and receiving their benefits.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, the Rota Municipal Scholarship and Housing Program was previously placed on hold indefinitely due to a change in the CNMI's financial management system.

According to a letter from Santos addressed to Finance Secretary David Atalig, she informed the CNMI Department of Finance that the Rota Municipal Scholarship and Housing Program remains suspended indefinitely due to a change in the CNMI's financial management system.

Specifically, the program was on hold because the scholarship program team was unable to enter pertinent information into the 'Munis,' the CNMI's new financial management system.

Santos pointed out that dozens of students were awaiting financial aid, with the end of the school year fast approaching.

Because of this, Santos sought Atalig's help in resolving the issues with the financial management system so Rota scholars could soon receive their financial aid.

CNMI

From Page 1

drose Pacyaya Garcia, Erika Lynn Nakasone, and Marissa Quiambao.

Second place went to Package WAAB Wellness Camp of Yap. The concept is Yap's first recreation center aimed at holistic health. Its members are Jalani Gootinmutnguy, Teresita Laarwon, Demetria Mtag, Jamilyn Mooteb, Sebastiana Tinagpitin, and Joshua Tun

Other teams that took part included: Beep! (Guam), Dachelbil (Palau), Kenehke 4 Wheels (Pohnpei), and Linguistic Learning Services (LLS) (Pohnpei).

First-place winners will receive $2,500 in seed money with provisions, second-place winners will receive three Cricut Explore Machines with supplies and AirTags, and third-place winners will receive entrepreneurship books, notebooks, bags, and other sustainable goods.

The event was hosted by the University of Guam Entrepreneur Society, UOG's Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation, and the Pacific Islands Small Business Development Center Network.

With the assistance of Northern Marianas College, the College of Micronesia-FSM, and SBDC centers throughout Micronesia, the weekend-long event engaged a total of 35 participants on five islands throughout Micronesia with the dream of starting their own business.

Participants pitched their business ideas with a focus on sustainability. The participants then formed teams and built business plans to turn the most feasible ideas into small-business startups. The teams pitched their startups to a panel of judges who determined the winners.

"This year's event brought forth the diverse communities of Micronesia, along with their sustainable ideas, to solve concerns in their respective islands. The passion and drive from each team just radiated through the final pitches and was easily seen by all those who were present," said Christasha Aguon, an officer of the Entrepreneur Society at UOG and Startup Weekend Micronesia organizing lead.

The event is associated with Google Techstars Startup Weekend, a program that has been launched in more than 150 countries across the world that teaches aspiring entrepreneurs how to create a real company.

UOG graduate students in the Professional Master of Business Administration program and the Pacific Islands SBDC at UOG first brought the Startup Weekend event model to Guam in 2014, to Saipan in 2016, and to Palau, Chuuk, Kosrae, Yap, and Pohnpei for the first time in 2019. ***(PR/Saipan Tribune)***

CCC

From Page 1

$15.5 million license fee since August 2020, failure to pay its annual $3.1 million regulatory fee since October 2020, failure to contribute $20 million to the community benefit fund in both 2018 and 2019, failure to comply with its minimum $2 billion capital requirement, and failure to comply with a CCC order to pay all money owing to its vendors.

"There were so many violations, but these are the most critical. These five enforcement actions are basically the requirements to prove [IPI] is financially suited to be a casino operator. Obviously, if you're not paying these fees, you're not financially suitable. That's exactly why I'm seeking revocation," he said.

Originally, Yeom said, the revocation hearing was to be heard on May 3, but IPI needed time to gather their witnesses and both parties needed ample time to prepare their arguments and defenses.

"Part of the reason why we're delaying the current revocation hearing from May 3 to the 24 is because IPI came up with their own expert witnesses that weren't identified earlier. Both parties need to know exactly who is going to be brought in as expert witnesses and what for. That's why we needed to postpone the hearing," he said.

Meanwhile, Yeom said IPI, whose exclusive casino license remains suspended after the Superior Court reaffirmed CCC's suspension order, has filed an appeal with the Supreme Court to reverse the suspension order.

He further explained that while IPI is doing that, he is seeking complete revocation of its license because it has failed to comply with the requirement to lift the suspension, like paying over $30 million in fees.

"They are technically legally suspended by the CCC, and it has been upheld by the CNMI Superior Court. Now, they're challenging us in Supreme Court for the suspension order. Now, while that's in play, I'm seeking revocation. This is a further action to the suspension because they couldn't remedy the suspension order. When we suspended them, we said, 'You need to pay all the regulatory fees, the casino license fee, and we need you to pay that immediately to [lift] your suspension' but that hasn't happened. That's why I filed five more enforcement actions against them, because they did not live up to the suspension order," he said.

IPI's exclusive license was suspended back in May 2021 and the casino operator was given six months to pay both the $15.5 million casino license fee, the $3.1 million regulatory fee, and a $6.6 million fine to lift the suspension.

1 DEAD

From Page 1

Monday. Responding police officers found the two male victims lying on the ground by the former Famous Shoes establishment. Medics from the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services arrived on the scene and transported both victims to the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp for further treatment. One male victim was pronounced dead, while the other male victim was admitted into the hospital for further care.

Preliminary investigation indicated that in the early morning of Monday, May 9, a group of Chinese males was seen walking into the Paseo de Marianas after a night out. While walking through the Paseo, one member of the group, Victim No. 1, saw an unknown individual, later identified as Rui Jun Huang, and greeted him while continuing to walk, but Huang began "talking loudly." Victim No. 1 left the group and approached Huang before a brief fight ensued. The fight was immediately broken up by the group and other witnesses in the area and the group left the scene.

Several minutes later, the group doubled back through Paseo de Marianas to head back to a friend's house and ran into Huang again. According to witnesses, Victim No. 1 left the group to confront Huang again. Victim No. 2 followed to stop Huang and Victim No. 1 from arguing again. At this point, Huang allegedly pulled out a knife and separately stabbed both victims. A member of the group then restrained Huang as they called for police assistance.

A witness separately told *Saipan Tribune* that, prior to the stabbing, the witness saw and heard the group of men arguing, but walked away before the physical altercation happened.

Police soon arrived at the scene, arrested the suspect, and brought him to the Department of Corrections.

According to the DPS spokesperson Dre Pangelinan, the case is still under investigation but, as of right now, the case is classified as a homicide.

The first stabbing case this year at the Paseo de Marianas happened on New Year's Day.

MARCOS JR.

From Page 1

Eight others are in the presidential race, including former boxing star Manny Pacquiao, Manila Mayor Isko Moreno and former national police chief Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

Long lines of voters turned up early across most of the country, with the start of voting delayed by a few hours in a few areas due to malfunctioning vote machines, power outages, bad weather and other problems.

Thousands of police and military personnel were deployed to secure election precincts, especially in rural regions with a history of violent political rivalries and where communist and Muslim rebels are active. In Maguindanao province, a security hotspot in the south, three village guards were killed by gunmen outside an elections center in Buluan town, briefly disrupting voting. Nine would-be voters and their companions were wounded separately Sunday night when unidentified men fired five rifle grenades in the Datu Unsay town hall, police said.

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SHRM meeting to focus on CW-1 visa touchback provisions

The Society for Human Resources Management CNMI Chapter will host a general membership meeting on Thursday, May 26, 2022, at the Regency Ballroom, Hyatt Regency Saipan, starting at 8am. Doors will open at 7:30am.

This meeting will feature a presentation of the USCIS CW-1 touchback provisions presented by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

This meeting will feature an Early Bird Registration (before May 19) with the following fees: $25 for members and $35 for non-members.

Regular registration (after May 19) fees are as follows: $30 for members and $40 for non-members

To register, please sign up here.

This meeting will include breakfast. Seating is limited. One person per one entry. One representative may submit multiple entries for each participant under their company.

SHRM is the world's largest association devoted to human resource management. The Society serves the needs of HR professionals and advances the interests of the HR profession. Founded in 1948, SHRM has more than 250,000 members in over 140 countries, and more than 575 affiliated chapters. The CNMI Chapter is affiliated with the national organization. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp

Eli D. Cabrera
Administrator

Richard V.Salas
Director, DCRM

NOTICE OF CRM PUBLIC HEARING
DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES
GARAPAN FISHING BASE REVETMENT & SHORELINE STABILIZATION
PERMIT APPLICATION NO. SMS-2022-029

The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be holding a public hearing for the proposed revetment and shoreline stabilization of the Garapan Fishing Base project in Garapan, Saipan, near the Farmers Market and across the Kristo Rai Church and parking lot area.

The Department of Lands and Natural Resources (DLNR) is proposing to construct the revetment along the land-lagoon interface by stabilizing 380 feet of shoreline along the Garapan Fishing Base. DLNR anticipates to complete the construction by late 2023.

The public hearing for this project is scheduled on **Tuesday, May 24, 2022, at 5:00PM, at the DCRM Learning Center 3rd Floor, Suite 301, Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Lower Gualo Rai, Saipan.**

To maintain the health and safety of all, virtual public participation is highly encouraged via video conferencing through Zoom link: hhtps://zoom.us/j (Meeting ID: 6706648315). Our Zoom meeting access code may change, please call the DCRM Permitting Office at (670) 664-8300 for connection assistance at least one-day prior to the public hearing date.

If you are unable to attend, written comments can be submitted to the DCRM Permitting Office, Suite 305, Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, or mailed to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, P.O. Box 501304, or sent by fax at 664-8315, or by email at ssablan@dcrm.gov.mp. The project files are open for review and comments during regular business hours from 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M., Monday through Friday. All written and oral comments received by DCRM will be included as part of the permit application records and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed projects. Please contact Ms. Sam Sablan at the DCRM Permitting Office at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the DLNR Garapan Fishing Base Revetment and Shoreline Stabilization Project.

/s/ Richard V. Salas
Director
Division of Coastal Resources Management

Dementia support groups feature local writers, two dementia care specialists

This month, two online dementia support group sessions will feature special presentations and poetry readings by CHamoru writer Pep Borja and Evelyn Flores, professor of Pacific island literatures and CHamoru studies at the University of Guam. Borja and Flores will also share the stories of their journeys as writers. These poetry reading sessions are specially designed to help caregivers learn to make meaningful connections with older adults and persons with dementia.

The presentations are part of the ongoing online support groups for family caregivers of persons with dementia being conducted by the Guam/Micronesia Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program of the University of Guam School of Health.

Also this month, world-renowned dementia care specialists affiliated with Positive Approach to Care will provide training to caregivers of persons with dementia. Applied gerontologist Dr. Beth Nolan will present on "Brain Changes in Dementia" on May 14 and occupational therapist Teepa Snow, MS, OTR/L, FAOTA, will present on "Navigating the Journey of Dementia" on May 21. Nolan and Snow will be available after their presentations to answer questions from the group participants.

■ CARES® End-of-Life Dementia Care – Module 5: Emotional and Spiritual Support
• 10am–noon, Saturday, May 7
• Register at https://zoom.us/j/91243370958

■ Poetry in Dementia Care with Pep Borja
• 6pm–8pm, Wednesday, May 11
• Register at https://zoom.us/j/92072878067

■ Brain Changes in Dementia with Dr. Beth Nolan
• 8am–10am, Saturday, May 14
• Register at https://zoom.us/j/91243370958

■ Poetry in Dementia Care with Dr. Evelyn Flores
• 6pm–8pm, Wednesday, May 18
• Register at https://zoom.us/j/92072878067

■ Navigating the Journey of Dementia with Teepa Snow
• 8am–10am, Saturday, May 21
• Register at https://zoom.us/j/91243370958

■ CARES® End-of-Life Dementia Care™ – Certification Exam
• 6pm–8pm, Wednesday, May 25
• Register at https://zoom.us/j/92072878067
• 10am–noon, Saturday, May 28
• Register at https://zoom.us/j/91243370958

Ongoing deme tia support groups The GWEP dementia support group sessions are held remotely on Zoom every Wednesday evening and Saturday morning, year-round. The sessions are free of charge to partners, family members, and other caregivers of persons with dementia who have ties to Guam and the Micronesian region.

For more information, contact Iain Twaddle or Nikolas Gutierrez at (671) 735-2883 or gwep.tgss@triton.uog.edu or Rhoda Orallo at (671) 735-3277 or nfcspmgr@teleguam.net. ***(PR)***

CUC EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Congratulations to Davina Magofna who was chosen as the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s 2022 Employee of the Year. Greetings come from your family at CUC's Call Center and Customer Service. Magofna is shown here with Call Center supervisor Art Lizama.

COMMONWEALTH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CEDA)
PO Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. No. 670-234-6245 | Fax: 670-235-7147
Website: www.developcnmi.com

PUBLIC NOTICE
Tuesday, May 10, 2022

PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COMMONWEALTH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CEDA) THRU ITS CHAIRWOMAN, HEREBY INFORMS THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE CEDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULED ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 2022 AT 6:30P.M. WAS CANCELLED. THE CEDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL HOLD A SPECIAL MEETING ON THURSDAY, MAY 12, 2022 AT 5:00 P.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE CEDA CONFERENCE ROOM, FIRST FLOOR, CEDA BUILDING, OLEAI SAIPAN. THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
  A. Call to Order
  B. Roll Call
  C. Adoption of Agenda
II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
III. LOAN MATTERS
  A. Deliberation & Board Action on the Estate of John DLG. Pangelinan
  B. Deliberation & Board Action on Marsha P. Barcinas
IV. QUALIFYING CERTIFICATE MATTERSS
  A. Presentation, Deliberation & Board Action – Saipan Globe International Group (SGIG) Request for Modification
  B. Deliberation & Board Action – Marshall Holdings CNMI LLC (MHCNMI LLC) Request for Modification
V. BOARD RESOLUTION CEDA 2022-001 (Bank Accounts' Signatories) – Approval & Adoption
VI. OTHER MATTERS RELATED THERETO
VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION
VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Your presence is highly appreciated.

/s/ AUBRY M. HOCOG
Chairwoman

CNMI DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB22-GOV/DOL/OSHA-42200098

SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 26, 2022 TIME: 9:00 A.M.

"BUILDING 1323 & 1331 RENOVATIONS DESIGN-BUILD PROJECT"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE HORIGUCHI BLDG. GROUND FLOOR, 123 KOPPA DI ORU & BEACH ROAD, GARAPAN SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

****FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY****

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB CAN BE MADE TO MR. TIMOTHY ASAIVAO, AT THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY & HEALTH ADMINISTRATION, DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AT (670) 664-3157.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ VICKY BENAVENTE
SECRETARY OF LABOR

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

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Opinion

Hafa Adai
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Supreme Court leak raises divisive questions

The leak of a draft United States Supreme Court ruling written by Justice Samuel Alito in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, which would overturn past court precedents in favor of leaving abortion laws to the states, has ignited intense political debate over the future of abortion laws and the institution of the Supreme Court itself.

This is a polarizing issue and we anticipate a lot of understandably heated rhetoric from activists, partisans and politicians on each side of this issue. But first, let's focus on where things stand.

It is important to keep in mind that the draft ruling at hand is just that, a draft, from February.

"Justices can and sometimes do change their votes as draft opinions circulate and major decisions can be subject to multiple drafts and vote-trading, sometimes until just days before a decision is unveiled," noted *Politico*, which broke the story.

In the 1992 case of *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, which affirmed the right to an abortion, and which Alito's ruling would overturn, Justice Anthony Kennedy is noted to have switched his vote. Kennedy planned to join Chief Justice William Rehnquist and Justices Antonin Scalia, Clarence Thomas and Byron White in upholding restrictions on abortion, but changed his mind.

In this case, according to Politico, Alito was tasked with writing the opinion after a preliminary vote by the justices. What we have is a draft without any indication that any of the other justices had weighed in.

Given that the court tends to release its most contentious rulings in June, and the draft at hand is from February, it is in the realm of possibility that other justices could moderate or limit the scope of the majority's ruling or write an entirely different one.

Anyone who recognizes the danger of upending American institutions after the events of Jan. 6, 2021, should also recognize the problem with compromising the institution of the Supreme Court.

The leak of this draft ruling breaks the trust among the justices and their clerks, which is necessary for them to do their jobs in good faith, and opens up the court to the same toxic political gamesmanship of the other two branches of government.

What impact the leak will have or what the motives were of the leaker remain unknown, but it won't be productive to civil discourse.

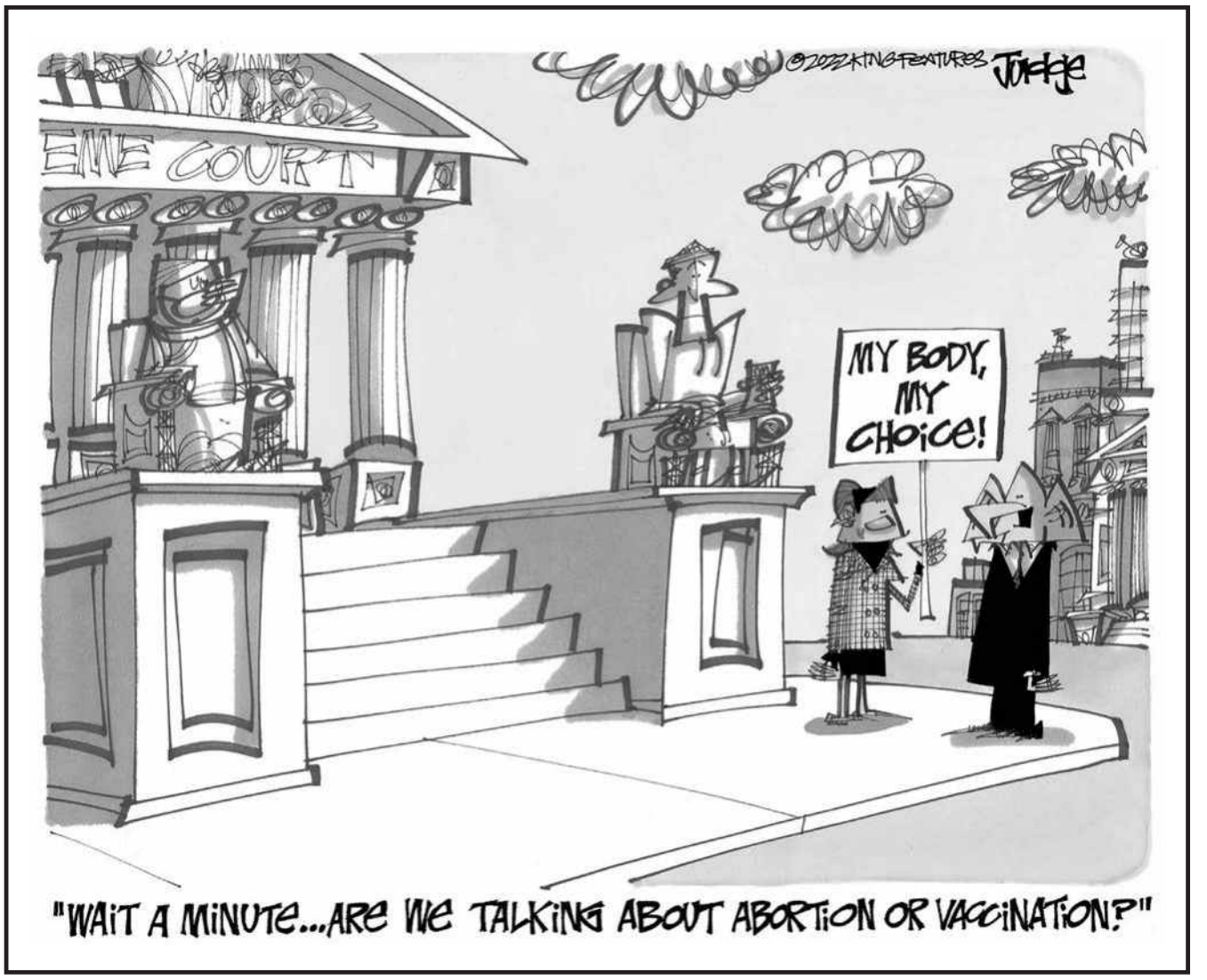
As for what the draft reveals, Alito's argument is of no surprise to anyone familiar with the conservative and constitutional originalist line of argument against the notion of a federal constitutional right to an abortion.

"We hold that *Roe* and *Casey* must be overruled," writes Alito. "The Constitution makes no reference to abortion and no such right is implicitly protected by any constitutional provision."

He continues, "It is time to heed the Constitution and return the issue of abortion to the people's elected representatives."

This ruling, if made official—and that remains an "if"—

See SUPREME on Next Page



Give peace a chance in America's culture wars

By LYNN SCHMIDT
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Lynn Schmidt is a columnist and Editorial Board member of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

I have a confession when it comes to the culture war our society is mired in: I consider myself a pacifist on this front. As the battles rage on between the woke left and the anti-woke right, it seems clear to me that there will be no winners, only losers. Those losers are the majority of Americans, in the middle, who want a government that actually governs.

James Davison Hunter's 1991 book, "Culture Wars: The Struggle to Define America," focused on the convergence of Christian fundamentalists, Orthodox Jews and conservative Catholics "in a battle against their progressive counterparts for control of American secular culture," the book cover states. The culture wars have certainly evolved in the 31 years since. But at its heart, as always, is a struggle for America's cultural identity.

The culture wars are a response to the conflict between the secularization of society and the values many Americans still adhere to. Then there are those who inflame these grievances and resentments for political gain. The culture wars are used as a cudgel for both the right and the left, who typically portray the other side as an existential threat to their very survival.

In March, Florida's Republican governor, Ron DeSantis, signed the "Parental Rights in Education Bill," which reinforces parents' rights "to make decisions regarding the upbringing of their children." The bill prohibits classroom instruction on sexual orientation or gender identity in kindergarten through third grade and prohibits instruction that is not age appropriate for students and requires school districts to adopt procedures for notifying parents if there is a change in services from the school regarding a child's mental, emotional or physical health or well-being. Critics of the bill started calling it the "Don't say gay" bill, even though there is no mention of the word gay in the bill. The bill is vague and would make it difficult for school districts and teachers to comply. As with most issues in our politics today, the bill came under a national spotlight.

After DeSantis signed the bill, woke employees of Disney World—the top employer in central Florida—demanded that the Walt Disney Corporation condemn the bill, and Disney Chief Executive Bob Chapek vowed to fight for its repeal. DeSantis retaliated by asking Florida lawmakers to repeal a provision, known as the Reedy Creek Improvement District, that gives Disney the right to govern itself like a city since 1967. Disney can raise its own revenues to pay for municipal infrastructure expenses like roads, water, waste services, and fire safety and ambulance services at Disney World. Reedy Creek also issues bonds and levies taxes on properties within its boundaries effectively on behalf of Disney. Those bonds total $1 billion.

If it's revoked, the state of Florida acknowledges it will not be able to cover the improvement district's bond obligations. The new bill is slated to take effect on July 1, although the changes won't become enforceable until June 2023.

The losers in this current battle are the improvement district's 300 employees, who could lose their jobs, and the taxpayers who were warned that their property taxes may jump by 20% to cover the cost of the district's services.

As an old-school conservative, I have a nuanced take on the Florida situation, which I am quite aware no longer fits into the current, populist Republican Party's beliefs. I believe in parental rights but think the conversations about curriculum should be taking place at the local, school district level. I am suspicious of a strong central government, so I think the Florida governor and legislature overreached. I also believe in free markets, privatization, free trade, deregulation and minimal government debt. The bill passed to dismantle the improvement district is antithetical to all of those beliefs. I also prefer, probably unrealistically, that corporations stay out of political fights.

I am by no means suggesting that our society should not be debating how to deal with change, to decide what is important to our communities, and to decide the values we want to hold. I am proposing that the culture wars be removed from politics.

When politicians and elected officials spend their time engaging in culture war issues, they stop spending their time on the pragmatic tasks of governing. I imagine there are plenty of Floridians who could identify far more urgent issues worth addressing.

So how can political culture war pacifists give peace a chance? We can refuse to engage in culture war combat, we can work to build back our local communities, start to trust our institutions again, encourage that trust to grow, and reward politicians who refuse to engage in culture war battles with our votes.

Children's Mental Health Awareness Day

May 7, 2022, was National Children's Mental Health Day.

According to a 2013 Review of School Climate Research, close to 20% of children and young adults in the United States have an identifiable mental health problem. Of those, 70% do not receive the care they need. Children whose social, emotional, or behavioral difficulties are not addressed are more likely to exhibit a diminished capacity to learn, drop out of school, experience strained family relationships, enter the juvenile justice system, and abuse substances.

The COVID-19 pandemic has negatively affected our nation's youth. The National Alliance on Mental Health reports that in 2020, 1 in 5 young people report that the pandemic had a significant negative impact on their mental health and that 1 in 10 people under the age of 18 experienced a mental health condition following a COVID-19 diagnosis.

As a parent of a teenager, I find these statistics troubling. I decided to educate myself further about issues surrounding children's mental health and found a helpful parent webinar presented by the American Psychological Association, "Bridging the Gap: Parents and Teens Talking Together," that provided me with valuable information on engaging with my child and having a conversation with him about mental health.

The information presented provided me with tips and skills for having a conversation about difficult topics such as mental health with teens, especially when the teen initiates the conversation. I would like to share a few of those here:

Do your best as a parent to stay calm and listen carefully to what your teen is saying to you. At times as a parent, I have a knee-jerk reaction to the way I handle issues brought up by my child. I realize that I need to take the time to hear him out.

Understand that initiating this conversation with you in the first place may be difficult for your teen. As a parent, I feel that I should be the one to open up a conversation with my child about things like suicide or depression. Today's children are much more knowledgeable about these topics than I was at their age, and their curiosity may have them want to talk about these things before we as parents are ready.

Validate your teen's feelings. It's okay for your child to express their feelings and concerns relating to situations that impact their mental health and we as parents have the ability to discuss their concerns with empathy.

If your teen initiating the conversation with you brings up a lot of emotions, take a break. This does not need to be a one-time conversation. It may be healthy to continue the talk with your child when the both of you are in the right frame of mind.

When we as parents initiate the conversation about mental health, the following tips may prove useful:

Take some time to prepare for the conversation. The internet contains a wealth of information that may help you expand your knowledge on the subject. Links to helpful websites for parents may be found at the end of this article.

Find a good time to talk. Personally, I find the best time to engage in conversation with my child is while we are driving to or from his school or while going out for a family event. Each parent may find they have different times to speak with their child, such as during family dinner or during a quiet night at home. Do what is best for you and your teen.

Use "I" statements to explain how you feel and any concerns you may have. An example of this is: "I have been concerned that you have become anxious lately. I am here to help you." For parents who do not have practice in using "I" statements, this may be difficult at first. Using "I" statements places no blame or judgment on the child.

Having these conversations with our children is the first step to addressing our child's mental health. At times, parents may not want to seek professional help for their children when it is needed. Feeling embarrassed or ashamed to seek mental health services because of the opinions of others is a form of stigma that is not easily overcome. Being confident that you are looking out for the welfare of your child is never something to be afraid of.

These talks that we may have with our children do not need to be limited to when we notice something is "off" with our child. As a result of my career background, education, and training, I may have an easier time than most when it comes to speaking with my children about difficult topics. With practice it may become a little easier for others.

Organizations like the CNMI Systems of Care focus on providing mental health services and support to children and youth 21 years old and younger who are experiencing or may be at-risk of developing severe emotional challenges. Their caring staff may be reached at (670) 664-4604.

Online resources I have found useful include the American Psychological Association website. Please visit www.apa.org/pi/families for more about Children, Youth and Families and mental health. Additionally, Mental Health America has information about youth mental Health. Their website may found at: https://mhanational.org/childrens-mental-health.

If you or someone you know is experiencing barriers while attempting to access mental health services, please contact the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. at (670) 235-7273. NMPASI also provides information and referral services to people with mental health needs through the Protection & Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness program.

By GREG BORJA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Greg Borja is the executive director of the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc.

Science and Dreams: Sense and Sensibility

(written on Mother's Day, May 8, 2022)

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey aka Pepe Batbon is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is a sonnet practitioner who enjoys stargazing.

"We are such stuff as dreams are made on, and our little life is rounded with sleep."

—William Shakespeare, The Tempest

Science Sensibility Sonnet

From our mother's womb
sisters, brothers, father's bloom
we thrive —then a tomb

From our father's sperms
we live long—laugh love and learn
until food for worms

From modern science
to forms of religious reliance
thought balances with compliance

Forgetting common sense
some prefer ignorance
and ride on logic's fence

tall tales and lies they borrow
truth today is gone tomorrow
scientific knowledge in sorrow

Maybe Dreams be Remembered or Not

It may have been in May but maybe it was not
maybe that could be right and maybe wrong
my memory grows cold then sometimes hot
I just can't seem to remember that old song
I don't remember any words from it at all
I sang it to you out in the high school hall
when I wanted to take you to the Junior Ball
you turned and smiled and said give me a call
the memory of my singing it is still inside there
the tune and words seem locked in a cage
as I lose more memories and more white hair
entering deeper into a senile dementia stage
bright lights happen before darkness smothers
All I Have To Do Is Dream, the Everly Brothers.

SUPREME

From Page 8

would have wide-ranging effects.

According to the Center for Reproductive Rights, about half of the states are expected to impose restrictions, and about half won't, with abortion protected in 21 states, including California, by statute or state Supreme Court rulings.

The court will ultimately decide what a majority of the court decides. There's a broad array of possible outcomes here and we encourage Americans not to project too far ahead of what we know now.

© 2022 *The Orange County Register*

Masks remain an essential tool to protect against COVID

In his recent article in The Atlantic, Ed Yong posed a poignant question: "What does society owe immunocompromised people?"

During the massive surge in COVID cases in the fall and winter of 2020, I remember seeing commercial after commercial proclaiming that we were all in this together. Images of nurses and doctors with haggard faces and weeks' old personal protection equipment flashed on screen. In November 2020, Dr. Anthony Fauci, as part of the White House COVID task force, stated, "We can mitigate this virus and stop this spread together."

Most people understood that protecting one another with layered protection strategies like masking and social distancing was essential to doing your part to help the broader community.

But much has changed in the last two years. The release of vaccines to combat COVID provided an extra layer of protection for most individuals. Mask mandates, or even mask recommendations, have been thrown out the window in many places, including on public and air transportation. Recent videos of airline passengers cheering and throwing away their masks were virally making their way across social media platforms after a federal judge in Florida struck down the Biden administration's airline mask mandate.

However, most highly trained, well-regarded public health policy analysts state that masking is still needed to help reduce surges and hospitalizations and protect the most vulnerable in our communities. Even Dr. Fauci stated in 2020, "We should not say that vaccines are a substitution for public health measures; (they're) a complement to public health measures."

COVID-19 is a respiratory illness spread through aerosol transmission. While it has affected everyone in the United States in some way, it has disproportionately harmed individuals who are immunocompromised, seniors, people with certain comorbidities, and Black or brown communities. Layered mitigation strategies, including wearing a mask, have shown to significantly decrease the risk of transmission. Even surgical masks and cloth masks can reduce transmission rates. Yet the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Dr. Rochelle Walensky, called masks "the scarlet letter of this pandemic."

By MIA IVES-RUBLEE
InsideSources.com

Mia Ives-Rublee is director of the Disability Justice Initiative at the Center for American Progress. She wrote this for InsideSources.com.

The shift from community-based public health measures to individual-risk health evaluations has left those who have been most affected by the pandemic increasingly vulnerable. As certain public health experts, including the CDC, push personal risk assessment over holistic community public health policies, individuals at high risk for COVID complications are left to determine how to navigate the daily task of going to the grocery store and attending health appointments.

Also, the personal risk assessment doesn't take into account the disabling nature of COVID-19: According to the Government Accountability Office, 10% to 30% of COVID survivors experience symptoms for more than one month, and at least 10% have symptoms that have affected their ability to work. A new study also showed that of the 66,008 COVID survivors experienced, on average, brain damage comparable to 20 years of aging.

So, what do we owe those most at risk for COVID complications? What do we owe the nurses and doctors burnt out after multiple surges? The United States must make crystal clear the value of masks in protecting vulnerable people and communities to help reduce surges and protect the most at risk in our communities. Masks are not scarlet letters—they are one of the many tools at our disposal to reduce chances of death or disability from long COVID.

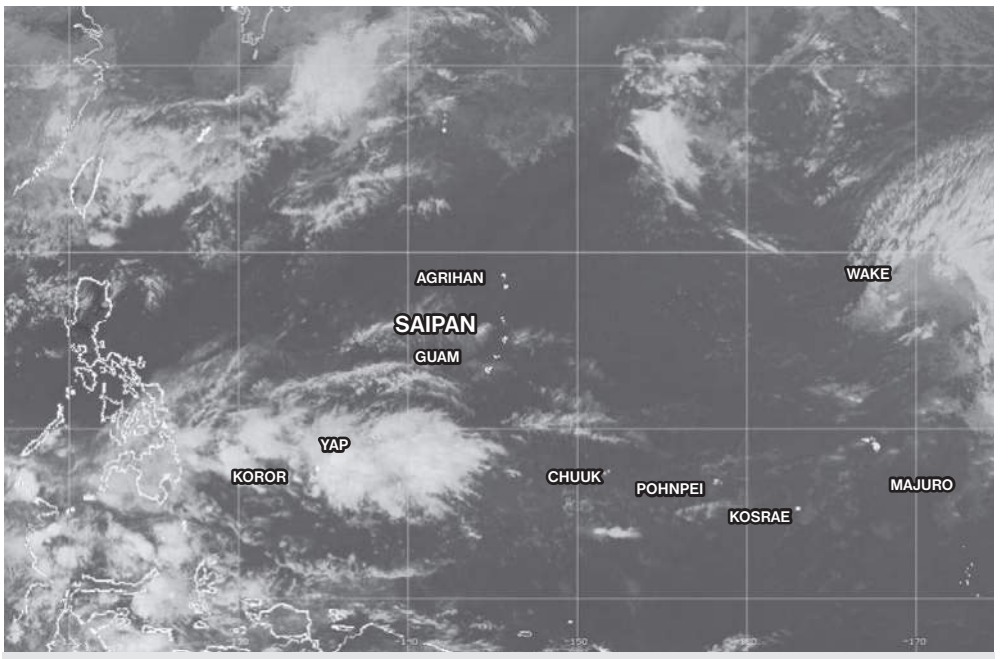
As Dr. Paul Farmer is often quoted, "The idea that some lives matter less is the root of all that is wrong with the world." It's our moral and civic duty to serve and protect the most vulnerable in our communities. By doing this, we protect all in our communities.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy, with Isolated showers. East wind 11 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 18 mph.	Mostly cloudy, with Isolated showers. East northeast wind 9 to 11 mph.	Partly sunny, with a 30 percent chance of showers.	Partly cloudy at Night.	Partly cloudy at Night.
88° 80°	88° 80	88° 80°	88° 80°	88° 80°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:52 AM, MONDAY, MAY 9, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Guam Doppler weather radar shows widely scattered showers east of Guam, moving west-southwest. The buoys reveal combined seas of 6 to 7 feet, composed mainly of trade-wind swell from the east-northeast.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

■ Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.

■ Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.

■ Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.

■ Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.

■ Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.

■ Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html

■ Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

■ Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.

■ Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

■ Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:

• Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.

• Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

• Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

• Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	30 / 26 °F
Palau	Thunderstorms	27 / 24 °F
Yap	Thunderstorms	29 / 26 °F
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	29 / 26 °F
Pohnpei	Scattered Thunderstorms	30 / 26 °F
Kosrae	Isolated Thunderstorms	30 / 27 °F
Majuro	Scattered Thunderstorms	29 / 26 °F

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	05:50 AM	18:36 PM
Wednesday	05:49 AM	18:37 PM
Thursday	05:49 AM	18:37 PM
Friday	05:49 AM	18:37 PM
Saturday	05:48 AM	18:38 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	01:27 PM	13:13 PM
Wednesday	-	02:07 PM	14:04 PM
Thursday	-	02:45 PM	14:56 PM
Friday	-	03:24 PM	15:49 PM
Saturday	-	04:03 PM	16:45 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Thundershowers	19 / 9 °F
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	20 / 11 °F
Hong Kong	Scattered Thunderstorms	27 / 24 °F
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	27 / 22 °F
London	Mostly Cloudy	20 / 11 °F
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	20 / 9 °F
Manila	Partly Cloudy	36 / 27 °F
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	19 / 10 °F
Miami	Mostly Sunny	27 / 21°F
New York	Sunny	22 / 10 °F
Osaka	Cloudy	24 / 17 °F
Paris	AM Clouds/PM Sun	27 / 13 °F
Busan	Mostly Cloudy	19 / 14 °F
Rome	Mostly Sunny	26 / 13 °F
Salem	Sunny	28 / 14 °F
San Francisco	Sunny/Wind	14 / 8 °F
Seoul	AM Clouds/PM Sun	25 / 13 °F
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	21 / 15 °F
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	21 / 8 °F

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY	FEET	
03:47 AM	High Tide	1.83
09:46 AM	Low Tide	1.21
1:57 PM	High Tide	1.49
9:04 PM	Low Tide	0.39

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 1, 2022

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	6:35AM	7:15AM	1, 3, 6
UA117	9:50AM	10:35AM	2, 4, 5, 7

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	6:00AM	8:00AM	1, 3, 5, 6, 7
UA193	7:05PM	10:55PM	5 via Palau
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	6:35AM	9:10PM	1, 3, 6 via Guam
UA117/193	6:35AM	10:55PM	5 via Guam, Palau
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	2, 4, 5, 7 via Guam

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW9308	3:30PM	7:20PM	4, 7
7C3405	3:30PM	7:25PM	6
RS112	3:45PM	7:30PM	3, 6
7C3405	3:50PM	7:45PM	3
OZ624	4:00PM	7:40PM	3, 6

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

BX622	3:10PM	6:30PM	3, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA116	5:00AM	5:45AM	1, 3, 6
UA116	8:00AM	8:45AM	5, 7
UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	2, 4

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:35PM	4:35AM+1	2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA184	10:25PM	4:20AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:05AM+1	5 via Palau
UA184	11:50PM	5:40AM+1	5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/116	10:25PM	5:45AM+1	2, 5, 7 via Guam
UA184/116	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3 via Guam
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	4, 6 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	8:30AM	2:10PM	6
RS111	8:45AM	2:05PM	3, 6
7C3406	8:50AM	2:30PM	3
TW9307	9:00AM	2:30PM	4, 7
OZ623	9:00AM	2:30PM	3, 6

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

BX621	8:00AM	1:10PM	3, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/ Thurs/Fri
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

BoG employee earns anti-financial crime designation

HAGÅTÑA, Guam—Bank of Guam announced yesterday that Kazzandra Ruaro, Bank Secrecy Act and Anti-Money Laundering support manager, has earned the Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialist certification. This credential is the gold standard in Anti-Money Laundering certifications and recognized internationally by financial institutions, governments and regulators as a vested commitment to protecting the financial system against money laundering.

» Kazzandra Ruaro completes anti-money laundering certification

The designation is awarded by the Association of Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialists to professionals who pass the exam, earn 40 qualifying credits based on education, professional certifications, work experience and professional references.

ACAMS is the largest international membership organization for anti-financial crime professionals that supports individuals and organizations who are dedicated to ending financial crime through thought leadership, continuing professional education and their "best- in-class" peer network.

Ruaro

"Kazzandra's certification is a great reflection of her dedication to protecting our customers and combatting money laundering. As we continue to enhance our digital delivery channels, it is important for us to continue our investments deep into the development of our people as well. Kazzandra's certification and the work she does every day is part of why we're proud to be The People's Bank," said Josephine Mariano, senior vice president, chief BSA, and central operations officer of the Bank of Guam. ***(PR)***

CHCC employees undergo training on inclusion, gender identity

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. employees undergo a mandatory training on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota on how to provide appropriate healthcare services for the LGBTQ+ community in the CNMI.

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. recently had all its employees undergo a mandatory training on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota that taught its employees how to provide appropriate healthcare services for the LGBTQ+ community in the CNMI.

The training, called "LGBTQ+ Cultural Competency and Diversity in Healthcare Training," is aligned with CHCC's goal to acquire accreditation from Human Rights Campaign's Health Equality Index Program as an inclusive healthcare facility, which CHCC reportedly hopes to achieve soon.

According to Tyra Lyn Sablan, founder and president of the transgender alliance, T-Project, the training started in April on Saipan as part of a mandatory training session for all employees and on Tinian in May 2-3, 2022 and Rota on May 04-06, 2022.

The training included use of respectful language, data capture, group discussion, self-reflection, hormone replacement therapy, gender and colonialism, sexual orientation and gender identity in Pacific cultures and learning modules from Fenway Institute's LGBTQ+ Online Learning Center.

The training was facilitated by Sablan, Plumeria Joy Aldan-Castro, Jayson Camacho, and Jordan Roiland.

Sablan said that access to timely and quality healthcare is a right every human being deserves, regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, age, disability, marital status, political affiliation, sex, including sexual orientation and gender identity or gender expression. She said the LGBTQ+ community, particularly transgender people, have long been subjected to a history of pervasive discrimination in healthcare, housing, workplace and other important aspects in life. U.S. data and CNMI Youth Risk Behavior Survey data shows that there is a prevalence of health disparities that affect the LGBTQ+ community in the CNMI, especially in our youth population.

"In the CNMI, we have no room for this kind of behavior and mentality. Our people reflect a culture of respect and love for one another. It is our responsibility as stewards of the land to preserve that culture of love and respect," she said.

Sablan thanked the CHCC for taking its first step to preserving that culture by initiating this corporation-wide training on all three islands. "CHCC has always been an ally to our community, and we are very grateful to everyone, especially to our chief executive officer, Esther Lizama Muña, for her unwavering love, support and encouragement," Sablan said.

"Inclusion is a crucial aspect of our culture here at [CHCC] and healthcare is essential to the well-being of a community. In order to build a more resilient community, we aim to provide sustainable solutions to empower all people of the CNMI to achieve exceptional health. These trainings are only the first steps toward the type of health justice all people in the CNMI and in the world deserves," said Muña. ***(PR/ Saipan Tribune)***

Pacific Home Appliances is latest ProaPerks Partner

Pacific Home Appliances is the latest company to sign on as a Northern Marianas College ProaPerks Partner, joining many other businesses and organizations that provide discounts and special offers to NMC alumni, students, and employees.

All card-carrying members of the NMC ProaPerks program can now receive a 5-10% discount on air-conditioners and refrigerators at Pacific Home Appliances.

Pacific Home Appliances joins the growing list of ProaPerks partners, such as 153 Restaurant, 360 Restaurant, 4EVER CNMI, Alamo Car Rental, AllStar Sporting Goods, Aqua Connections, Inc., Aquasmith, Athlete's Foot, Avis Rent A Car, BAB Korean Restaurant Cup Bab, Bistro Marianas, Chagi Norf Kitchen, Boarderline, Bolis R US 2, Candle J, Caravan of Food, Casa Decor, Casa Urashima, Chelu Alynez Enterprise, Chungi Wa Korean Restaurant, Clear Water Place, Clear Water Residence, Clear Water Villa, Coral Garden Hotel, Cosmos Lounge, D' Chef's Kitchen, Docomo Pacific, Dollar Days, Enterprise Car Rental, Ete Cafe, Fishing Tackle and Sporting Goods, Fork and Spoon, Furusato Restaurant, Garapan Restaurant Cafe & Grill, Gold's Gym, Grandvrio Resort Saipan, Great Harvest, Boyer Trading Company LLC. dba Ginen Saipan, Ha'ani Company, Hardt Eye Clinic, Inc., Healing Stones Spa, Highway Express Auto Care Center, Herman's Modern Bakery, Inc., Hertz Rental Car, Hyatt, Ice Island Coffee & Ice Deserts, Hotel Americano, Ina's Kitchen, International Roller Skates, Isla Shave Ice, Islander Rent A Car, Java Joe's, JC Cafe, Jhen's Sweet Corner Cakes, Judy's Cafe & Restaurant, Junlyn Salon, Kentucky Fried Chicken/Taco Bell, Kiki's, Korea House Restaurant, Latte Built Gym, Lohas Massage, Lohas Nails, Lucky Store, Lucky II Mart, Magbers Snack Bar, Majesty Restaurant, Mama D's Cafe, Mariana Lighthouse, Marianas Creation, MMC & Pacific Labs, LLC, Megabyte, Mermaid Restaurant & Milk tea, Micafe Snack Corner, Nam Dae Moon, National Car Rental, Natural Nail & Spa, Neni Girl Nails, NMC Bookstore, Ocean Candy, Ocean Star Restaurant, Paradise Dental Spa, Pena House Boutique, Pizzeria Bar & Grill, Pokiyaki, Residence Lodge, Saipan Computer Services, Shirley's Cafe, Salty's, Stay Cafe, Summer Snow Cafe & Kids Corner cafe, Summit Auto Repair Shop, Surf Club, Residence Lodge, The Ohala Foundation Clothing, The Pacific Supply, The Shack, Time Creation Corp., Tinian Diamond Hotel, Tom Yum Restaurant, Tribe Marianas, and Triple J Motors.

Companies and other interested organizations who would like to become part of the ProaPerks program and take advantage of the buying power of thousands of individuals affiliated with NMC can find more information by emailing *proaperks@marianas.edu.* ***(PR)***

NMC

Pacific Home Appliances is now a proud NMC ProaPerks partner. More information about their special promotion for ProaPerks card holders can be found at marianas.edu/proaperks.

Public Service Recognition Week at JKPL

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library recognized many employees last Thursday as part of the library's celebration of Public Service Recognition Week. Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres and the PSRW Committee presented several employees with plaques of recognition. The theme for this year's Public Service Recognition Week was "Standing Together to Serve Our Marianas."

May 2-6, 2022 was designated as Public Service Recognition Week to recognize the accomplishments and contributions of all the hardworking and deserving public employees of the CNMI government.

Nation

Intense, winds complicate New Mexico wildfire fight

LAS VEGAS, N.M. (AP)—Strong, fast winds complicated work for firefighters in northeast New Mexico on Sunday as they battled two major blazes, though the rural area's major population center appeared to finally be safe from the worst danger.

"It's been a challenging day. The winds have picked up; they haven't let up," fire spokesperson Todd Abel said Sunday evening.

The rural area's largest town—Las Vegas, New Mexico, population 13,000—sits on the eastern edge of the fire area and appeared safe for now thanks to fire lines dug with bulldozers and other preparations over the past week. But the northern and southern edges of the blaze were still proving tricky for firefighters to contain, particularly given winds as fast as 50 miles per hour (80 kilometers per hour), Abel said.

The fire's perimeter stretched more than 60 miles (96 kilometers) from Las Vegas, New Mexico, on the southeast flank to near Holbrook about 50 miles (80 kilometers) south of the Colorado line. The National Interagency Fire Center said early Sunday that more than 20,000 structures remained threatened by the fire, which has destroyed about 300 residences over the last two weeks. The fire center said full containment wasn't anticipated until the end of July.

The ferocious winds were expected to continue with little break Sunday night and at least into Monday. Strong, gusty winds are in many ways firefighters' worst nightmare, especially in conditions so hot and dry as the crews in the Southwest have been battling since early April.

In addition to fanning and spreading the flames, such winds ground airtankers and light planes that can drop water directly on the fire or lay down retardant ahead of its path to allow bulldozers and ground crews to dig firebreaks in places where there's no highways or roads that can help stop the progression of the flames.

In extreme conditions, like the ones in New Mexico, even the helicopters that typically can get up in the air—at least during the early morning hours before winds start to pick up in the afternoon—are grounded. That means they're unable to gather intelligence about the overnight developments critical to making new attack plans or placing new orders for firefighters, engines and more aircraft from across the region where demand grows exponentially as summer nears and the more traditional fire season begins.

Aircraft were able to fly early Sunday but were grounded by early afternoon, Abel said.

"It's not good, obviously; it takes away a tool in our toolbox, but we're not stopping," said fire spokesperson Ryan Berlin.

Firefighters prepared to protect homes if needed in several other rural communities along the state highway that connects Las Vegas to Taos, a small community popular for outdoor recreation activities like skiing. Officials repeatedly urged people to evacuate if they have been told to do so.

"It's a dogfight out there folks," fire spokesperson Bill Morse said Sunday evening.

As of early Sunday, the biggest blaze northeast of Santa Fe had grown to an area more than twice the size of Philadelphia. Thousands of residents have been forced to flee their homes.

For now, the city of Las Vegas appears to be safe, said Berlin. Some residents of the area were able to return to their homes on Saturday, and some shops and restaurants had reopened.

"We even started to repopulate a section of town already," he said. "Our concern right now is on the southwest portion of the fire which the wind is helping us out, sort of, because it's blowing the flames back into the fire."

ACROSS THE NATION

New York Gov. Kathy Hochul tests positive for COVID-19

NEW YORK (AP)—New York Gov. Kathy Hochul tested positive for COVID-19 on Sunday, saying she will isolate and work remotely this week. "Thankfully, I'm vaccinated and boosted, and I'm asymptomatic," Hochul, 63, tweeted. "A reminder to all New Yorkers: get vaccinated and boosted, get tested, and stay home if you don't feel well." A day earlier, the Democratic governor had tweeted a photo from the Olana State Historic Site outside Hudson, New York, which she visited to thank park volunteers. Hochul is at least the 18th U.S. governor to test positive for COVID-19, according to an Associated Press tally. Several U.S. governors have tested positive in recent months, with Connecticut's Ned Lamont and Maine's Janet Mills testing positive in April. New York City Mayor Eric Adams tested positive on April 10, his 100th day in office.

Border patrol: Human smuggler knew passengers couldn't swim

AKWESASNE, N.Y. (AP)—Federal authorities say a boat operator knew his passengers could not swim when he abandoned six Indian nationals on a sinking boat during a failed smuggling attempt across the frigid St. Lawrence River into northern New York. Brian Lazore, a U.S. citizen, was ordered held without bail last week on smuggling charges. His defense attorney, Gabrielle DiBella, told The Associated Press that Lazore is "presumed to be innocent until proven guilty." Authorities spotted the boat April 28 after it left a hotel in Cornwall, Ontario, and crossed the St. Lawrence River. Court filings saying Lazore "proceeded to exit the sinking vessel and walked to shore" with the vessel taking on water some 800 feet (244 meters) from the Canadian border. The boat was almost completely submerged when the firefighters arrived.

Fire at Wisconsin anti-abortion office investigated as arson

MADISON, Wis. (AP)—Vandals struck an anti-abortion group office, where a fire broke out and a Molotov cocktail was found, authorities said Sunday. Madison police spokeswoman Stephanie Fryer told the Wisconsin State Journal that the fire reported shortly after 6 a.m. Sunday at the Wisconsin Family Action office in Madison was suspicious in nature. He said someone also spray-painted a message outside the building. Federal officials and the Madison Fire Department are helping with the investigation. No one was injured, and officials were still working to determine how much damage the fire caused. It wasn't immediately clear who vandalized the building, but the message "If abortions aren't safe then you aren't either" was spray-painted on the building.

World

More than 60 feared dead in bombing of Ukrainian school

ZAPORIZHZHIA, Ukraine (AP)—More than 60 people were feared dead Sunday after a Russian bomb flattened a school being used as a shelter, Ukrainian officials said, while Moscow's forces pressed their attack on defenders inside Mariupol's steel plant in an apparent race to capture the city ahead of Russia's Victory Day holiday.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said he was "appalled" by the reported school bombing Saturday in the eastern village of Bilohorivka and called it another reminder that "it is civilians that pay the highest price" in war.

Authorities said about 90 people were sheltering in the basement. Emergency crews found two bodies and rescued 30 people, but "most likely all 60 people who remain under the rubble are now dead," Serhiy Haidai, governor of Luhansk province, wrote on the Telegram messaging app.

Russian shelling also killed two boys, ages 11 and 14, in the nearby town of Pryvillia, he said. Luhansk is part of the Donbas, the industrial heartland in the east that Russia's forces are working to capture.

As Moscow prepared to celebrate the 1945 surrender of Nazi Germany with a Victory Day military parade on Monday, a lineup of Western leaders and celebrities made surprise visits to Ukraine in a show of support.

U.S. first lady Jill Biden met with her Ukrainian counterpart. Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau raised his country's flag at its embassy in Kyiv. And U2's Bono, alongside bandmate The Edge, performed in a Kyiv subway station that had been used as a bomb shelter, singing the 1960s song "Stand by Me."

Jill Biden pays surprise visit to Ukraine, meets first lady

UZHHOROD, Ukraine (AP)—Jill Biden made an unannounced visit to western Ukraine on Sunday, holding a surprise Mother's Day meeting with first lady Olena Zelenska to show U.S. support for the embattled nation as Russia presses its punishing war in the eastern regions.

She became the latest high-profile American to enter Ukraine during the war, while Zalenska's public appearance was her first since since Russia invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24

"I wanted to come on Mother's Day," the U.S. first lady told Zelenska. "I thought it was important to show the Ukrainian people that this war has to stop and this war has been brutal and that the people of the United States stand with the people of Ukraine."

Biden spent about two hours in Ukraine, traveling by vehicle to the town of Uzhhorod, about a 10-minute drive from a Slovakian border village where she had toured a border processing facility.

AP

First lady Jill Biden greets Olena Zelenska, spouse of Ukrainian's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, outside of School 6, a public school that has taken in displaced students in Uzhhorod, Ukraine, Sunday, May 8, 2022.

Zelenska thanked Biden for her "courageous act" and said, "We understand what it takes for the U.S. first lady to come here during a war when military actions are taking place every day, where the air sirens are happening every day—even today."

The first ladies met at a school being used to temporarily house Ukrainian migrants. Zalenska arrived first and waited in her black SUV until Biden arrived in similar fashion. The women stepped out of their vehicles and embraced, with Biden—who wore a wrist corsage for Mother's Day—handing over a bouquet of flowers before they entered the school.

The women came together in a small classroom, sitting on either side of a wooden table and greeting each other in front of reporters before they met in private. Zelenska and her two children have been staying at an undisclosed location for their safety.

Havana death toll at 31 as dogs search for survivors

HAVANA (AP)—The death toll of a powerful explosion at a luxury hotel in Cuba's capital increased to 31 Sunday evening as search crews with dogs hunted through the rubble of the iconic, 19th century building looking for people still missing.

The Hotel Saratoga, a five-star 96-room hotel in Old Havana, was preparing to reopen after being closed for two years when an apparent gas leak ignited, blowing the outer walls into the busy, midmorning streets just a block from the country's Capitol building on Friday.

Several nearby structures also were damaged, including the historic Marti Theater and the Calvary Baptist Church, headquarters for the denomination in western Cuba. The church said on its Facebook page that the building suffered "significant structural damage, with several collapsed or cracked walls and columns (and) the ceiling partially collapsed," though no church workers were hurt.

In releasing the names of those who were killed, the Health Ministry said the dead included four minors, a pregnant woman and a Spanish tourist, whose companion was seriously injured.

The ministry also said 54 people were injured, with 24 hospitalized. It previously reported 85 injured, but that tally turned out to include those killed by the explosion.

Nineteen families had reported people missing as of Saturday evening, but authorities did not say Sunday whether the number had changed.

Overdrive

The truth about octane

Does it really make a difference if you pump regular or premium?

By RON HURTIBISE
SOUTH FLORIDA SUN SENTINEL

With the price of regular unleaded gasoline still in the $4-a-gallon range, the comparative price of premium is kind of a bargain at many stations.

Really.

When the price of regular surged this spring, the percentage difference between regular and premium at many stations actually narrowed—most likely so drivers will keep buying premium.

Why does that make premium a "bargain"? Well, if $3.19-a-gallon premium was 39% more than regular at $2.29 in October 2020, as reported in Miramar, and premium was at $4.79 in April 2021—14% more than the $4.19 price for regular, that makes premium relatively cheaper than before. Woo-hoo. Happy days are here again.

So treat your car to a tankful of premium once in awhile, local mechanics say.

Yeah, yeah, most vehicle manuals say you only need 87 octane unless you drive a luxury or performance car. And plenty of expert sources like AAA and Consumer Reports have long said that you're wasting your money if you pump premium.

But drivers say they can feel a difference, especially when driving older cars in hot South Florida weather. That's when knocking and pinging gets louder and acceleration seems to struggle.

David dos Santos, owner of Japanese Auto Care Specialists in Margate, Florida, says knocking and pinging is a result of carbon and other byproducts left by cheap lower-octane gas, which he says burns less efficiently than higher-octane gas.

He recommends that his customers step up to 93 octane premium every five or six fill ups, even if their car is designed for 87 octane.

He also advises using a high-quality brand with a level of detergent additives above the minimum standard required by the state. Dos Santos said he only uses Shell or Chevron, but many brands are certified as selling a superior blend approved by car manufacturers called Top Tier. Those gasoline brands are identified at the website toptiergas.com.

Brands that aren't on Top Tier's list aren't selling Top Tier-certified gas, the website says.

Debates over whether cars designed for 87 octane run better when given 89- or 93-octane gas are easy to find on the internet, and 87-octane adherents make strong arguments.

Knocking is caused when fuel in an engine's cylinder ignites before the piston reaches top dead center. The misfired piston then is thrust toward the back of the crankshaft against the momentum of the engine.

Ignition in modern cars are controlled by the cars' computers, they point out, and those computers are calibrated to detect knocking and advance the ignition timing to eliminate it.

In an undated post, AAA said it found no increase in power or fuel economy when running 93 octane in cars designed for 87 octane. But those tests were conducted with cars that were just two years old.

As cars age, their engines become more susceptible to carbon buildup, which also contribute to knocking and pinging by reducing the volume of space in the cylinder, creating heat-retaining "hot spots" that ignite fuel prematurely, changing the fuel-to-air mixture, or impeding regular movement of valves.

Filling up with premium helps clean up that carbon and other byproducts of burning cheaper gas, dos Santos said.

Improvement is real

Experts' advice notwithstanding, drivers who report feeling better performance when upgrading to high octane gas aren't imagining things, he said.

Drivers "will feel more improvement if they drive cars with smaller four-cylinder engines than larger engines," he said. "But it also improves performance of six- and eight-cylinder cars. Older cars might feel more improvement because they typically have more residue and carbon built up over the years."

Newer cars benefit, he said. Dos Santos said he treats his car to high-octane, high-detergent gas every two or three fill-ups and the results are noticeable.

Pete Cenzano, owner of Cenzo Car Care in Margate, said he too uses high octane gas once in a while to help clean out the carbon in his cars. Premium gas gets better gas mileage, he said, which consumers can test for themselves with their tripometers. For some cars, the improved mileage helps offset the higher price for premium gas, he said.

Cenzano says he'll recommend using high-octane primarily for cars 10 years old and older to address knocking and pinging caused by carbon buildup, and sometimes worsened by gradual deterioration of the cars' emission systems.

What about pumping regular when manufacturers call for premium?

High gas prices can also tempt those who own vehicles in which high-octane gas is either required or recommended to opt for cheaper 87-octane.

Many of those are performance or luxury cars with highly tuned engines that need that extra octane to run at peak levels. But more and more "ordinary cars and crossover SUVs" require premium, Forbes reported in 2020, "due largely to more widespread use of higher-compression turbocharged engines for the sake of added power without sacrificing fuel economy."

They include models of Buick Envision, Honda Civic and Chevrolet Malibu with turbocharged engines, and all models of Nissan Maxima, Kia Stinger, MINI Cooper, and Volkswagen Arteon.

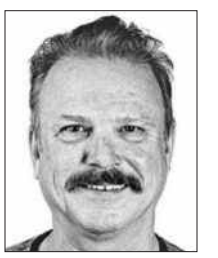
Experts say that if a manufacturer merely "recommends" premium fuel for a particular model, then it should be perfectly fine to use regular, as the car's computer will notice and adjust to the lower octane. But if a driver notices knocking and pinging, then use of higher-octane fuel should be resumed.

If the manufacturer states that if premium fuel is required, then drivers should beware of downgrading to regular for any extended length of time. Using regular in a pinch—if, say, there's no premium gas available—shouldn't hurt the engine.

But cars that require premium are more likely to knock and ping when fed lower-octane gas. On the highway especially, the misfiring will lead to carbon buildup, Cenzano said.

According to the car enthusiast website Thedrive.com, "this phenomenon isn't typically harmful to your engine if it happens occasionally, but repeated engine knock can speed up wear and tear."

MOTORMOUTH: Many ideas to keep squirrels away



By BOB WEBER
Chicago Tribune

Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. He maintains this status by seeking certification every five years. Weber's work appears in professional trade magazines and other consumer publications. His writing also appears in automotive trade publications, Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest. *Send questions along with name and town to Motormouth, Rides, Chicago Tribune, 160 N. Stetson Ave., Fourth Floor, Chicago, IL 60601 or motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.*

Oh rats! Dear readers, please indulge me. My comments first, before the questions. Every spring I get numerous emails about squirrels, mice, groundhogs (they prefer to be called woodchucks), rabbits and unidentified chewing critters. And every year, when I answer one reader's query, I get scads of suggested solutions—some sweet and some not so much. Here, with no more bloviating, are samples from my inbox.

Q: Regarding rodents building nests in car engines, I had a big rodents nest that I had to chip out by hand! Very nasty. I then took it to the repair shop. They suggested peppermints. I melted 15 red/white peppermints in 2 cups of hot water, then put the mixture into a spray bottle. A quick spray into each wheel well when putting the car into the garage has worked wonders. No more critters, and it smells good. Try it!

Q: The problem of rodents chewing wires is not isolated. They are attracted to the soybean-based insulation in newer vehicles. There is a solution that works. Bounce dryer sheets have unique smell that rodents find offensive. It works in campers and in the dashboards of seldom used machinery. Inexpensive and no poisons.

Q: They got me twice, $500 each time (comprehensive did cover except for the deductible). They not only ate wiring, they filled the inner wheel wells with nesting materials and had babies. One died in the air intake vent and made for a smelly long trip. Wire manufacturers need to stop using soybean oil in their insulation. I was able to immediately evacuate them with peppermint oil spray; they hate it. A GM mechanic suggested Messina Squirrel Stopper and cayenne pepper. Spray wiring then sprinkle. It looks bad and future mechanics may need to hose it off. Problem solved on my last two vehicles.

Q: As for squirrels, I consider them to be rats with furry tails. I have good luck using moth balls to keep rabbits from under my wheelchair ramp. I think it will work for other mammals. An easy thing to try. Available at the dollar store.

Q: Just read the letter to you from R.H. about varmints chewing on engine components. The best answer is to get all the junk out of your two-car garage and store your car where it was meant to be stored. And close the door always except when entering or exiting. Simple answer, except for hoarders!

Q:This is the United States. We are allowed to have cats and guns. I caught tree rats nibbling on the wiring of my GTO. I shot them—every one I saw—for about three weeks. Sometimes I used a .22 rifle with a suppressor, sometimes I used a very high-powered SIG air gun. I allowed my cats out at night. They found their nests and I killed them all. Killing them is 100% effective. It took less than a month. None at my bird feeders, none under the cars. Haven't seen one since I started. And if you feel sorry for tree rodents, you probably love mice and rats too, yes? Squirrels are not endangered. They are urban vermin—cute, but vermin. Kill them and empty their nests. It's better that way. And I spent less than $30 in ammunition. Saved how much in repairs? And the marksmanship practice was excellent. No neighbor's homes were hit, no stray rounds. Hit what you aim for, and your wires will remain un-gnawed.

Life & Style

‘Doctor Strange 2’ conjures up biggest opening of 2022

By LINDSEY BAHR
AP FILM WRITER

The summer movie season is off to a blockbuster start thanks to “ Doctor Strange and the Multiverse of Madness.” The superhero extravaganza grossed an estimated $185 million in ticket sales in its first weekend in U.S. and Canadian theaters, the Walt Disney Co. said Sunday.

Not only did it more than double the opening of the first “Doctor Strange,” which opened to $85 million in 2016, it’s also the biggest opener of the year, ahead of “The Batman’s” $134 million; the second biggest of the pandemic, behind “Spider-Man: Far From Home’s” $260.1 million; and the sixth biggest of all time globally.

Internationally, it’s doing even better with an estimated $265 million since opening Wednesday. In total, “Doctor Strange 2” has already made $450 million.

Spider-Man is at least partially to thank for the massive debut. Benedict Cumberbatch’s powerful sorcerer appeared prominently in “ Spider-Man: No Way Home,” which has become the third biggest movie of all time since opening in December. “Doctor Strange 2” picks up several months after the events of “No Way Home,” and brings in Elizabeth Olsen’s Wanda Maximoff, who became even more popular thanks to the recent Disney+ series “WandaVision.”

The film also has a gigantic footprint. It’s playing in 4,534 theaters in the U.S. and Canada alone, which according to Disney is the seventh widest opening ever. Premium format screens, including IMAX and 3D, accounted for 36% of the overall box office.

“Summer blockbuster season is off to a roaring start with ‘Doctor Strange’ — an excellent sign for the phenomenal slate ahead,” Rich Gelfond, the CEO of IMAX, said in a statement.

Hollywood’s summer movie season typically kicks off in early May and runs through the end of August and — aside from the last two years — regularly accounts for over $4 billion in ticket sales (or about 40% of the year’s grosses).

Sam Raimi stepped up to direct “Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness,” which reportedly cost around $200 million to make — though that number doesn’t account for the many more millions spent on marketing and promotion.

Over the weekend, the film has trended on social media for everything from its many cameos to a spirited debate over its PG-13 rating and whether or not the horror elements warranted something more restrictive.

“This is a total win for the industry for whom the last two summers almost didn’t exist in terms of box office,” said Paul Dergarabedian, the senior media analyst for Comscore. “Marvel has been kicking off summers for over a decade. This is a return to normalcy.”

There was little left for other movies playing in theaters. Part of that is due to the fact that many multiplexes chose to pack their theaters with wall-to-wall “Doctor Strange” screenings. Film Critic Matt Singer tweeted a photo a Manhattan AMC offering 70 screenings on Thursday alone.

Universal and DreamWorks Animation’s “The Bad Guys” fell to second place in its third weekend with an estimated $9.8 million, while “Sonic the Hedgehog 2,” from Paramount, landed in third with $6.2 million.

“Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore” took fourth with $3.9 million, bringing its domestic total to $86 million. And in fifth place was another multiverse-themed film, “Everything Everywhere All At Once.” It had a slight dip in its seventh weekend, but is still speeding along with an additional $3.3 million from 1,542 screens in its seventh weekend in theaters. The A24 film has grossed $41.6 million total.

The success of “Doctor Strange 2” only helps build momentum for the big summer movies on the way, like “Top Gun: Maverick” on May 27.

“We’ve got a real summer movie season on our hands, something we couldn’t have imagined two years ago,” Dergarabedian said. “It’s been a long time coming.”

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Comscore. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

1. **“Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness,”** $185 million.
2. **“The Bad Guys,”** $9.8 million.
3. **Sonic the Hedgehog 2,”** $6.2 million.
4. **“Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore,”** $3.9 million.
5. **“Everything Everywhere All At Once,”** $3.3 million.
6. **“The Northman,”**$2.8 million.
7. **“The Lost City,”** $2.5 million.
8. **“The Unbearable Weight of Massive Talent,”** $1.5 million.
9. **“Memory,”** $1.2 million.
10. **“Father Stu,”** $800,000.

New ‘Doctor Who’ star is ‘Sex Education’ actor Ncuti Gatwa

AP

Ncuti Gatwa poses for photographers upon arrival for the British Academy Television Awards in London, June 6, 2021.

LONDON (AP)—Ncuti Gatwa will take the mantle from Jodie

Whittaker on “Doctor Who,” the BBC announced Sunday, ending speculation over the iconic Time Lord’s next regeneration.

“Sometimes talent walks through the door and it’s so bright and bold and brilliant, I just stand back in awe and thank my lucky stars,” returning showrunner Russell T Davies said in the broadcaster’s release. “Ncuti dazzled us, seized hold of the Doctor and owned those TARDIS keys in seconds.”

Gatwa, whose first name is pronounced ‘SHOO-tee, currently stars in Netflix’s high school comedy-drama “Sex Education” as the effervescent Eric Effiong, who is openly gay but from a highly religious family.

The Rwanda-born, Scotland-raised Gatwa, 29, will be the first Black actor to helm the quintessential British sci-fi show, but he won’t be the first Black Doctor — Jo Martin has played “Fugitive Doctor” in several episodes.

Whittaker became the 13th Doctor — and the first woman to play the central galaxy-hopping, extraterrestrial Time Lord who regenerates into new bodies — in 2017, when she took over from Peter Capaldi. Her last episode of “Doctor Who” is expected to air later this year.

The original run of “Doctor Who” spanned 1963 to 1989. Since the show was revived in 2005, the Doctor has been played by Christopher Eccleston, David Tennant and Matt Smith, in addition to Capaldi and Whittaker. Other stars, like Karen Gillan and Billie Piper, have made their names on the show as the Doctor’s “companion.”

“This role and show means so much to so many around the world, including myself, and each one of my incredibly talented predecessors has handled that unique responsibility and privilege with the utmost care. I will endeavor my utmost to do the same,” the release quoted Gatwa — who described his emotions as “a mix of deeply honored, beyond excited and of course a little bit scared” — as saying.

In addition to seeing the start of Gatwa’s tenure, next year also marks Davies’ return to “Doctor Who” after more than a decade’s absence.

Couple reconnects but can’t rekindle the past they had

DEAR ABBY: I met a man, “Gabe,” 30 years ago. We had a very good time together. We dated some and even traveled occasionally. I liked him a lot but, when we met, I was divorced and looking for marriage. He was not. I moved for my job, and met and married someone else. Gabe did call to keep in touch for several years, but the calls stopped. I never forgot him.

My husband passed away four years ago, and then COVID hit. Feeling the loneliness of lockdown, I wrote letters to people I hadn’t heard from in years. Gabe’s was one such letter. He called me after he received it, and we reconnected. We have enjoyed each other’s company off and on since then.

I would love to have a deeper relationship with him. Unfortunately, he regards me as nothing more than a friend. He is intelligent, quick-witted, well-traveled and still very handsome. I enjoy his company very much. I’ve wanted to tell him how I feel, but I don’t want to jeopardize what we have together. So here I am, now in my 60s, feeling lost and not knowing how to handle my desire to be with him. What do you think?

LONG HISTORY IN FLORIDA

DEAR HISTORY: If you are looking for more than you already have with Gabe, you are wasting your time. Gabe is satisfied with the relationship just as it is. If he wasn’t, believe me, he would have mentioned it. If what you need is someone to “nest” with, you will have to look elsewhere. Sorry, he isn’t it.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: I am contemplating asking my wife for a divorce. Her 86-year-old mother lives with us. After she moved in, I quickly realized that her mother is a bigot, nosy and has little to no respect for my wife. I could go on and on. Agreeing to her mother moving in was the worst mistake of my life. I avoid her like the plague now.

I can work from home full time, but prefer to drive 75 miles a day to get out of the house. Her mother needs more care now than can be provided at home. However, my wife wants to bring someone in a few days a week, since I no longer work from home. She’s just delaying the inevitable.

I believe her mother is more important to her than I am and, if that’s the case, I can’t change her mind. Aside from this, we have a great marriage. I don’t want to lose what I have, but I am prepared to walk away. Advice?

HATES THE HOUSEGUEST

DEAR HATES: I do have some. If assisted living is in your mother-in-law’s future, it would be kinder to have her take up residency soon, while she’s capable of adjusting to it rather than postponing it until there is an emergency. You are long overdue for a frank and not very pleasant conversation with your wife about how you feel you rank on her list of priorities. Feeling as you do, it may be your only chance of saving your marriage.

■■■■

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Outta my way, Twinky.
A PERSON CAN'T BE A DOORMAT UNLESS HE ALLOWS HIMSELF TO BE ONE! I REFUSE TO BUDGE!
SHOVE
ACK! OOF! UGH!
I'VE GOT TO STOP READING THOSE DUMB ADVICE COLUMNS.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

NERMAL, I GOT YOU A NEW HAT
SERIOUSLY? WHY WOULD A SELFISH, UNCARING FAT SLOB LIKE YOU EVER WANT TO GIVE ME A HAT?
AH
JIM DAVIS 5-10

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

THEY WANT TO MAKE A MOVIE OUT OF YOUR BOOK?
THAT'S WHAT THEY SAID.
THAT'S AMAZING, LAURA! I'M SO EXCITED FOR YOU!
WHEW. I WAS WORRIED YOU'D BE... LIKE...
JEALOUS?
ALL ADAM-Y. THE HISTRIONICS AND WHATNOT.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Boyfriend
5 CIA operative
8 Farm fathers
12 Web addresses
13 Afternoon social
14 Prof's employer
15 Chop-house order
17 Handle
18 "You bet!"
19 Kids' card game
20 Colorado ski resort
21 Edge
22 Scale abbr.
23 Parsley piece
26 Casino employee
30 Ticked (off)
31 Coffee vessel
32 Valhalla VIP
33 Paint-mixing board
35 Part of LGBTQ
36 "Chandelier" singer
37 Shack
38 Tub sessions
41 In favor of
42 Orange Muppet
45 Old Italian money
46 Halite
48 Bloodhound's clue
49 Perfume label word
50 Waffle brand
51 Get one's feet wet?
52 Evening hrs.
53 "This — outrage!"

DOWN
1 Conceal, in a way
2 A Great Lake
3 Priestly vestments
4 Naval letters
5 Mirror fogger
6 Anjou, for one
7 Tibetan beast
8 Doesn't have enough
9 Take — (snooze)
10 Silent actor
11 "Frozen" reindeer
16 Tiny branch
20 Sit-up targets
21 Car-pooling service
22 Trail the pack
23 NASCAR advertiser
24 Pot pie morsel
25 Seminary subj.
26 Prompt
27 Writer Tarbell
28 Aachen article
29 ER workers
31 NYC subway overseer
34 "— the season ..."
35 Ankara resident
37 — -pocus
38 Huff and puff
39 Verdi heroine
40 Walked (on)
41 Froth
42 Turns sharply
43 "Three Sisters" sister
44 Thames town
46 Workout unit
47 Six, in Milan

Solution time: 22 mins.

I	S	H			A	W	L		G	U	A	M
M	C	O	S		G	O	O		O	S	H	A
A	B	U	T		A	R	G		Y	E	A	R
C	A	R	O	B		D	I	N	O			
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A	L	M	A	N	A	C		T	R	A	W	L
D	A	R	N		A	D	A		G	R	A	L
A	C	I	D	S		C	O	B	W	E	B	S
M	E	S	S	E	S		K	E	N			
			T	A		L		T	W	E	E	T
J	A	V	A		L	I	P		A	R	L	O
O	D	E	R		K	F	C		Y	O	L	O
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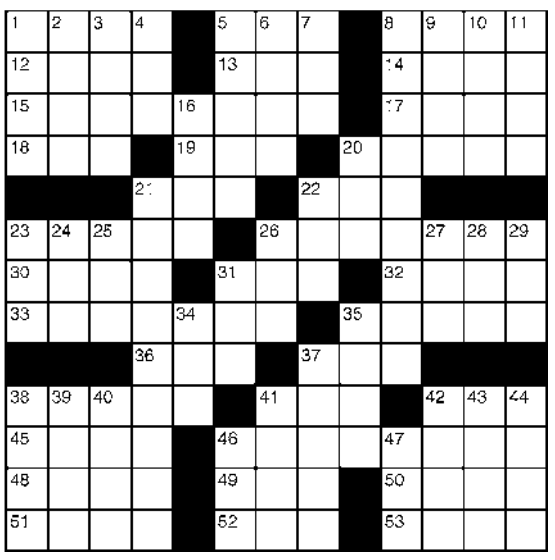
Yesterday's answer 5-10



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Missy Franklin, 27; Kenan Thompson, 44; Bono, 62; Donovan, 76.

Happy Birthday: Use your resources to your advantage. Dedicate some time to reflect on the type of life you want to live. Express your desire to strive for balance and equality to ensure you spend as much time enjoying life as you do working to maintain your status quo. Taking care of responsibilities that include your happiness is your key to victory. Your numbers are 5, 12, 19, 24, 33, 43, 47.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Be positive, regardless of what others do or say. An emotional situation will escalate if you become emotional or act hastily. Consider your objective and what it will take to succeed. How you handle money and peers will influence what happens next. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Refuse to let anyone limit what you can do or put demands on your time. Don't pout if things don't go your way; choose an alternative route and move along. Act based on your intelligence, not on your emotions, and you will avoid a scrimmage. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Do your best to get along without jeopardizing your integrity, position or reputation. Avoid confrontations by walking away from questionable situations. Spend more time doing what you can to make a difference and less time letting others take advantage of you. ✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* You can be friendly without putting yourself in harm's way. Approach projects and responsibilities with an open mind and turn some of your unique ideas into something tangible. A kind gesture will lead to positive feedback and returns. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Unnecessary changes will be costly. Look for simplicity and moderation in all that you do, and you'll be happy with the outcome. Personal growth and a healthy attitude will help you attract people who have something valuable to offer. Romance is featured. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* It's up to you to bring about change if that's what you want. Prioritize your to-do list, and don't stop until you are happy with the outcome. A unique approach to an old idea or method will reinforce your character and talent. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Dedicate more time, not money, to a worthy cause or something you want to pursue. A kind gesture will help you win favors. A challenge at home will turn in your favor if you make positive suggestions to improve your living arrangements. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Spend time with people who lift your spirits, not bring you down. Dismiss anyone trying to dump their responsibilities on you. Expand your interests and seek out knowledge that can help you excel. Strive for equality and work toward a goal that brings you joy. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Don't be too quick to take on something new without researching what's involved. Put more effort into personal and domestic matters that need adjustment. Use your intelligence and a gentle nudge to get your way.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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Romance is encouraged. ✪✪

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Take better care of yourself and those you love. Say no to manipulative individuals trying to take advantage of you. Make home improvements that will encourage you to take better care of your health and well-being. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Don't let emotions dictate what you say. Be thoughtful and understanding when dealing with others. Look for subtle ways to improve how you do your job or handle daily duties. Stick to what works best for you. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Take a moment to think. If you act on an assumption, you'll end up having regrets. Focus on what you can do to please loved ones and make yourself happy. Juggle your time accordingly, and you'll feel liberated by what you achieve. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are insightful, proactive and accommodating. You are outspoken and distinct.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	9		4		8		6	
6				3		2		5
	2							
5			7		3			2
	3						8	
7			9		6			4
							7	
1		6		9				3
	4		8		7		1	

Difficulty Level ★★ 5/10

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

4	6	8	1	3	2	7	9	5
7	9	2	4	6	5	1	8	3
3	1	5	9	7	8	6	4	2
8	4	3	7	5	9	2	6	1
6	5	7	2	1	4	9	3	8
9	2	1	3	8	6	4	5	7
2	3	9	5	4	7	8	1	6
5	8	4	6	2	1	3	7	9
1	7	6	8	9	3	5	2	4

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

MADE OF LINEN Solution: 9 letters

P	C	N	O	B	B	I	R	T	E	K	N	A	L	B
C	O	M	F	O	R	T	E	R	E	W	N	A	A	G
H	V	L	G	R	B	L	E	N	D	E	D	I	R	L
A	E	J	Y	N	N	M	I	N	N	I	S	Y	U	O
I	R	A	E	P	O	F	A	I	R	T	H	R	T	V
R	I	P	S	E	R	L	L	B	N	C	T	E	A	E
C	N	A	U	M	L	O	A	A	N	K	E	D	N	R
O	G	N	O	O	S	S	P	E	L	Y	S	I	A	A
V	S	E	H	H	T	L	R	Y	A	I	O	O	P	W
E	U	S	E	R	A	F	O	R	L	I	L	R	K	R
R	I	E	I	C	L	F	N	K	N	E	C	B	I	E
S	T	H	E	A	L	G	S	E	T	S	N	M	N	N
S	S	M	X	A	N	A	I	T	P	Y	G	E	S	N
M	A	T	T	R	E	S	S	P	A	D	I	S	H	I
T	H	R	E	A	D	C	O	U	N	T	E	V	U	D

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Aprons, Bamboo, Blanket, Blended, Brida., Chair Covers, Closet, Comforter, Coverings, Dinnerware, Dish, Duvet, Egyptian, Embroidery, Fine, Flat, Flax, French, Glove, Holland, Home, House, Japanese, Linen, Long, Mattress Pad, Napkins, Natural, Pants, Place Mat, Polypropylene, Ribbon, Sets, Sheets, Shirts, Silk, Suits, Thread Count, Yarn

Yesterday's Answer: Extension

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 53 through 68 order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

Harden, Embiid power 76ers past Heat, even series 2-2

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—James Harden took a sensational step forward in the postseason for the 76ers with step-back 3s that rekindled his dominant form. Joel Embiid is playing better by the game, and the MVP finalist might have his best basketball ahead.

Embiid is ready. So is Harden. And if the Miami Heat can't figure out The Mask and The Beard, the next thing they face could be the offseason.

"I don't think we've played our best basketball," Embiid said.

Harden scored 31 points, Embiid had 24 points and 11 rebounds and the Philadelphia 76ers beat Miami 116-108 on Sunday night in Game 4 to even the Eastern Conference semifinal series.

The Heat won the first two games in Miami with Embiid out with a right orbital fracture and mild concussion. The 76ers won Games 3 and 4 at home with Embiid and his mask in the lineup.

Game 5 is Tuesday night in Miami.

Oh yeah, this time Embiid is along for the ride. No wonder the 76ers feel better about their chances on this trip to Florida.

"Joel's going to be able to play," coach Doc Rivers said, laughing.

The Heat pecked away at the lead and got within five until Harden sank his fifth 3-pointer of the game with three minutes left. Harden crushed the Heat on catch-and-shoot 3s and hit one

clutch shot after another for 16 points in the fourth. He at last played in the postseason like the three-time scoring champion the Sixers needed when they traded for him in February.

"Nothing really changed. I just made shots," Harden said.

Harden drilled a step-back 3 for a 114-103 lead that sent the crowd into a frenzy — and the Sixers off to Miami with new life. He finished with six 3s, nine assists and seven rebounds.

"It's just James being James," Rivers said. "I felt like he was going to have a big game tonight. You can just sense it."

Jimmy Butler scored 40 points on 13 of 20 shooting from the floor, 12 of 13 free throws and nearly one-man willed the Heat to victory. The Heat, who shot 38% on 3s during the season, missed 28 of 35 3-pointers.

"I thought we had some really good looks. We just missed them," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said.

Embiid worked out the Game 3 cobwebs and returned to the dominant form that earned him season-long "MVP!" chants from the Philly diehards. His first quarter was about as good as it gets for the center. He made 5 of 6 shots, including a 3-pointer, and scored 15 points to put the Sixers ahead. Worn out in Game 3 from days of inactivity because of the concussion, Embiid played all 12 minutes in the quarter.

Here's a scary thought for Miami.

"We haven't seen the best of Joel in this series yet," Rivers said. "He's still trying to figure out how to play with that mask sliding all over his face."

After a scoreless first quarter, Harden followed Embiid's hot start and scored 13 in the second. He missed his first four shots of the game until he buried a 3 and then got rolling. He scored a bucket in transition during a 15-2 run and then waved his arms toward the crowd, calling on them to get louder.

Philadelphia shot 64% from the floor in the half. But 10 turnovers — that Miami converted into 13 points — kept the Sixers from stretching the lead well into double digits. The Sixers made nine 3s in the half to Miami's four.

Butler kept the Heat in the game with six straight points. He hit a layup, was nailed in the face by Embiid — who was whistled for a flagrant, then helped his former teammate to his feet — and Butler made the free throw. Butler hit a 3 off the possession and the Heat pulled to 74-70.

AP

Philadelphia 76ers' James Harden reacts during the first half of Game 4 of an NBA basketball second-round playoff series against the Miami Heat, Sunday, May 8, 2022, in Philadelphia.

Butler drew Embid's third foul with 1:37 left in the third and converted the three-point play that pulled the Heat within four. Butler trolled Embiid on Instagram after the Sixers posted a picture of him in the mask and quoted a line from "The Dark Knight Rises."

"(Expletive) yo mask," Butler wrote.

Butler scored 17 points in the third, yet the Heat still trailed 89-85. The 76ers fans let him have it when Butler fired an airball in the fourth and Harden came right down and nailed a step-back 3 for a 97-85 lead.

"He's a good player. He did what he was supposed to do," Butler said of Harden.

Butler scored 33 points in Game 3 and is carrying the Heat. He's mostly doing it alone.

Embid, well, he has Harden.

"That's why he's here," Embiid said. "It's only 2-2. We've got a lot of work to do. But I'm excited about what we can accomplish."

Mavericks 111, Suns 101

In Dallas, Luka Doncic tumbled toward the baseline after getting bumped by Chris Paul just before the halftime buzzer, the apprentice showing he has watched one of the masters at drawing fouls.

The trick spurred a critical fourth foul on Paul, setting up the Dallas Mavericks to get even in the Western Conference semifinals.

Doncic scored 26 points while helping Dallas take advantage of foul trouble for Paul to beat the Phoenix Suns 111-101 on Sunday for a 2-2 series tie.

"I saw he was going for the rebound and I was surprised," Doncic said. "He said to me, 'Did I push you that hard?' I said, 'No, not that hard. But it was a smart play.' And he said, 'Yeah, I know.'"

Paul ended up being out of Game 4 early in the fourth quarter, the period when he often dominated the Mavericks during an 11-game winning streak that ended with consecutive home victories for Dallas. Game 5 is Tuesday night in Phoenix.

Dorian Finney-Smith scored a playoff career-high 24 points on the most 3-pointers he's had, regular season or playoffs. He was 8 of 12 from deep, including consecutive 3s for a 14-point lead midway through the fourth.

Dallas matched its 20 3s (20 of 44) from a Mother's Day rout of the Los Angeles Lakers in 2011, a win that completed a four-game sweep in the second round on the way to the championship. The Mavericks are playing beyond the first round for the first time since then.

Devin Booker scored 35 points for the Suns, who dropped two straight on the road with a 2-0 lead just as they did in last year's NBA Finals. Milwaukee won the last four to take the title. Top-seeded Phoenix lost consecutive games for the first time in the playoffs.

"Last year was a learning experience for us," Booker said. "We went to six games last year with the Lakers, six games with the Clippers, six with the Bucks, six with New Orleans (this year). We understand that it's a series. It's the playoffs for a reason."

Turnovers were the story with Paul in Dallas' Game 3 win, when the 37-year-old had the most in any half of his playoff career with seven before halftime.

This time it was fouls, and it started when coach Monty Williams put him back in the game with three in the final minute of the first half. Williams had taken Paul out after his third at the 1:52 mark.

Paul drove to try to score in the final seconds but left the shot short, then made the ill-fated decision to chase the rebound.

"I've got to look back at it," Paul said. "I mean, I can't put myself in the situation to give them that ability to do that. I've just got to look at myself and figure out how to do better."

Just 2 1/2 minutes into the second half, Williams had no choice but to use his challenge when Paul stopped and backed into Jalen Brunson as Paul started bringing the ball up the court. The fifth foul was upheld on review.

The sixth also came against Brunson just a minute and a half after Paul had returned in the fourth. Paul finished with five points.

"Everybody's got to take ownership, and it starts with me," Williams said. "I made some decisions tonight that put us in a tough spot. Should have kept Chris out of the game, especially right before halftime. And then as a team, we've got take ownership as far as guarding the ball so we don't have to help as much."

Booker kept the Suns close into the fourth quarter despite long stretches without his backcourt mate, but Doncic eventually wore them down with post-ups and other drives for buckets or assists.

With the Suns down six midway through the fourth quarter, Doncic backed down the defense for a short bank shot, followed by Finney's back-to-back 3s.

Then the lead was back down to eight when Doncic drove twice and kicked out to the 3-point line both times. Reggie Bullock hit the first and Brunson the second for a 105-95 lead with 2:52 remaining. Eight of Doncic's 11 assists were on 3s.

"Luka told me when I had five 3s, he told me, 'You're about to get some more,'" said Finney-Smith, who finished one shy of the Dallas franchise playoff record of 9 3s by Jason Terry in the Mother's Day rout of the Lakers. "When LD tells you you're about to get some more 3s, I figured I was going to get some."

Source: Kings hire Mike Brown as new coach

The Sacramento Kings have agreed to hire Golden State assistant Mike Brown as their head coach.

A person familiar with the decision confirmed on Sunday that Brown will take over the franchise with the longest playoff drought in NBA history. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the team hadn't announced the hiring.

ESPN first reported that Brown would get the job. Brown previously had two stints as head coach in Cleveland where he guided the Cavaliers to the NBA Finals in 2007 and had one stint as coach of the Los Angeles Lakers.

Brown is expected to remain with the Warriors for the rest of their playoff run before making the short move to Sacramento where he will be the latest former Golden State coach to take over the Kings.

Kings owner Vivek Ranadive took over the franchise in 2013 after being a minority owner with the Warriors and immediately hired Michael Malone off Golden State's staff as his first head coach.

Ranadive then hired former Warriors assistant Luke Walton has head coach in 2019 and promoted former Warriors assistant Alvin Gentry to interim coach after Walton was fired last November.

None of the moves have led to success for the NBA's worst-performing franchise of the past 16 years.

The Kings have failed to make the playoffs in each of those seasons, setting the record for the longest drought in NBA history. They went 30-52 this past season under Walton and Gentry with their .366 winning percentage their worst since the 2017-18 season.

Since moving to Sacramento in 1985, the Kings have had only one stretch of success, making the playoffs in all eight seasons under coach Rick Adelman from 1999-2006. Adelman was fired in 2006 and remains the only coach in the Sacramento era to post a winning record in any season.

Brown comes with a strong pedigree, having worked as an assistant under Gregg Popovich in San Antonio and Steve Kerr in Golden State.

Ohtani, Rendon team up to rally Angels past Nationals in 9th

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)— Shohei Ohtani hit a tying double in the ninth inning, Anthony Rendon followed with a game-ending single against his former team and the Los Angeles Angels beat the Washington Nationals 5-4 on Sunday.

The Angels trailed 4-2 going into the ninth. Luis Rengifo drew a one-out walk and advanced to third on Taylor Ward's hit. Mike Trout struck out, but Ohtani lined a two-run double off Tanner Rainey (0-1). The reigning AL MVP had been 1 for 11 during the series.

AP

Los Angeles Angels designated hitter Shohei Ohtani (17) scores off of a walk-off single hit by Anthony Rendon during the ninth inningof a baseball game against the Washington Nationals in Anaheim, Calif., Sunday, May 8, 2022.

Yankees 2, Rangers 1, 1st game
Rangers 4, Yankees 2, 2nd game

In New York, Brad Miller snapped Michael King's impressive scoreless streak with a pinch-hit, two-run homer in the seventh inning that lifted Texas over New York to salvage a doubleheader split.

The Yankees took the opener 2-1 on Gleyber Torres' game-ending homer leading off the ninth. New York had three hits in the nightcap after getting just five in the early game.

King (2-1) had pitched 14 1/3 consecutive innings without allowing a run before Miller smacked a fastball out to center field for a two-run lead. The right-hander hadn't given up a run since an RBI double by Toronto's George Springer on April 11.

The rare ineffective outing raised King's ERA from 0.51 to 1.42.

Eli White also homered as the Rangers won for the fifth time in six games.

Giancarlo Stanton hit a two-run homer in the nightcap. New York lost for only the second time in 14 games.

Texas starter Glenn Otto allowed two runs and two hits in five innings against his former team, which traded him for Joey Gallo last July.

Phillies 3, Mets 2, 1st game
Mets 6, Phillies 1, 2nd game

In Philadelphia, Pete Alonso homered twice, had three hits and drove in five runs to lead New York over Philadelphia in the second game for a doubleheader split.

Chris Bassitt (4-2) allowed one run in 5 2/3 innings to help the NL East leaders take two of three in a rain-shortened series. Jean Segura homered for the Phillies.

In the opener, Bryce Harper homered again off Max Scherzer and Philadelphia became the first team to beat the new Mets ace, snapping a four-game skid.

Alonso socked a two-run homer off Cristopher Sánchez (0-1) in the first inning of the nightcap and a three-run drive against Nick Nelson in the fifth.

Harper had an RBI single in the opener as well. The reigning NL MVP also homered off Scherzer, his former Washington teammate, on May 1.

Dodgers 7, Cubs 1

In Chicago, Walker Buehler pitched seven sparkling innings in his 100th career start, and Los Angeles beat sliding Chicago for its sixth consecutive victory.

Buehler (4-1) improved to 3-0 with a 0.43 ERA over his last three outings. The right-hander allowed one run and four hits, struck out six and walked two.

Cody Bellinger had three hits for the Dodgers. Chicago, which lost for the 14th time in 17 games, managed just three runs in the three-game sweep by Los Angeles.

The Cubs had to shuffle their rotation after Marcus Stroman was scratched, and then they lost Justin Steele to a left hand injury.

Astros 5, Tigers 0

In Houston, Aledmys Díaz hit a grand slam and Jake Odorizzi combined with two relievers on a one-hitter as Houston finished a four-game sweep of Detroit for its seventh straight win.

Díaz's second home run of the season came in the third inning off reliever Drew Hutchison (0-3). Alex Bregman later added a solo homer off Joe Jimenez.

The Astros completed a 7-0 homestand against Seattle and Detroit.

White Sox 3, Red Sox 2

In Boston, Dallas Keuchel halted his three-start losing streak with six solid innings, José Abreu hit a two-run double and Chicago topped Boston for its season-high sixth straight victory.

Leury García added an RBI single for the White Sox (14-13), who moved over .500 for the first time since April 20 and completed a 5-0 road trip, including three wins at Fenway Park.

Christian Vázquez had an RBI single for the Red Sox (10-19), who have lost a season-worst five straight and 14 of 18.

Keuchel (2-3) allowed two runs and eight hits after posting a 9.90 ERA in his previous three starts.

Guardians 4, Blue Jays 3

In Cleveland, Franmil Reyes lumbered home on Óscar Mercado's tiebreaking, two-out single in the eighth inning to lift Cleveland over Toronto.

The Blue Jays took a 3-2 lead into the eighth, but Owen Miller's one-out homer off Tim Mayza tied it.

Adam Cimber (4-2) relieved with two outs. He allowed Reyes' single and walked Andrés Giménez before Mercado came through.

Bryan Shaw (1-0) pitched the eighth and Emmanuel Clase worked a perfect ninth for his sixth save.

Twins 4, Athletics 3

In Minneapolis, Jorge Polanco delivered another key hit and Minnesota's bullpen combined for 6 2/3 shutout innings as the Twins sent Oakland to its ninth consecutive defeat.

The Twins have swept three of their last five series and won 14 of 17 since beginning the season 4-8.

Polanco, who homered in a 1-0 win Saturday night, hit two-run single in the third inning for a 4-3 lead.

The Twins allowed only four runs over three games against the Athletics. The bullpen threw 11 2/3 scoreless innings during the series, much of it coming after starter Chris Paddack left in the third with right elbow inflammation.

Mariners 2, Rays 1, 10 innings

In Seattle, Abraham Toro hit a tying homer in the ninth inning, Ty France singled home the winning run in the 10th and Seattle edged Tampa Bay to snap a six-game losing streak.

Manuel Margot hit his third home run of the series for the Rays, who had won six straight overall and eight in a row on the road.

Tampa Bay appeared headed to a four-game sweep before Toro connected off Andrew Kittredge with one out in the ninth. Kittredge was trying for a two-inning save.

In the 10th, Rays manager Kevin Cash chose to intentionally walk Adam Frazier with one out. France singled off Matt Wisler (1-1), scoring automatic runner Jarred Kelenic.

Padres 3, Marlins 2

In San Diego, pinch-hitter Jorge Alfaro connected for a three-run homer with two outs in the ninth inning against his former team to lift San Diego over Miami.

Alfaro went deep to center field on the first pitch he saw from Cole Sulser (0-1), sending Petco Park into a frenzy and earning him a curtain call. He was purchased from the Marlins for cash in December.

Until the ninth, it appeared the Padres were headed for a second straight shutout. But then Trent Grisham and CJ Abrams got on base ahead of Alfaro's second homer.

Jazz Chisholm homered for the Marlins, who have lost seven of eight.

Padres starter Joe Musgrove pitched seven effective innings, and Robert Suarez (2-1) tossed two hitless innings for the win.

Giants 4, Cardinals 3

In San Francisco, Mike Yastrzemski hit a tiebreaking home run into McCovey Cove in the sixth inning, and San Francisco only struck out once while beating St. Louis.

Giants closer Camilo Doval whiffed slugger Nolan Arenado with the potential tying run on second base for his fifth save.

LaMonte Wade Jr. also homered in his third game off the injured list to help the Giants win their second straight after a five-game losing streak. They split the four-game series with the Cardinals.

San Francisco hitters didn't strike out until Joc Pederson fanned against Giovanny Gallegos for the last out in the eighth. No team has gone an entire game without striking out since Kansas

City on Sept. 7, 2017, against Minnesota, per MLB.com. The Giants last did it in 2008.

Yastrzemski had a sacrifice fly in the second and later homered off Génesis Cabrera (1-1).

Juan Yepez hit his first career home run for St. Louis and has hit safely in all five games he's played in since being called up from the minors Tuesday.

Dominic Leone (2-0) won despite allowing the tying run in the sixth.

Royals 6, Orioles 4, 1st game
Orioles 4, Royals 2, 2nd game

In Baltimore, Bruce Zimmermann threw six effective innings and Baltimore beat Kansas City to earn a doubleheader split.

The Royals won the opener 6-4 when Michael A. Taylor hit a tiebreaking single in the ninth after a pair of two-out errors by the Orioles.

In the second game, Zimmermann (2-1) allowed two runs and five hits with five strikeouts and no walks. The Orioles pounced early, scoring three runs in the first off Daniel Lynch (2-2).

Keegan Akin pitched two scoreless innings for the Orioles. Dillon Tate got his fourth career save and first this season.

Baltimore outfielder Austin Hays went 5 for 7 over the two games.

In the opener, Taylor Clarke (1-0) pitched a scoreless eighth and Scott Barlow earned his second save by standing two runners. Kansas City manager Mike Matheny got his 700th win in the majors with the Royals and St. Louis.

Jorge Lopez (3-2) took the loss.

Braves 9, Brewers 2

In Atlanta, Adam Duvall and William Contreras homered to help Charlie Morton win for the first time in five starts as Atlanta cranked up its bats against Milwaukee.

Matt Olson hit a two-run double during a four-run second inning. Duvall homered in the third off starter Aaron Ashby (0-3), and Contreras added a three-run drive in the fifth off Jandel Gustave.

The 38-year-old Morton (2-3) allowed two hits in five scoreless innings. The Braves were winless over his previous four starts, a stretch that included a 7.85 ERA.

The defending World Series champions won just their second series of the season in nine tries to improve to 14-16. The Brewers have lost two straight but still lead the NL Central with a 19-10 record.

Diamondbacks 4, Rockies 0

In Phoenix, Zac Gallen pitched seven crisp innings, Jose Herrera hit a two-run double for his first big league RBIs and Arizona blanked Colorado.

Ketel Marte had three hits to boost his batting average to .206 and the Diamondbacks took advantage of another shaky start by Germán Márquez (0-3) to win for the ninth time in 12 games. Gallen (2-0) allowed five hits and struck out seven.

Reds 7, Pirates 3

In Cincinnatti, Colin Moran hit a grand slam and a two-run homer against his former team, powering Cincinnati past Pittsburgh.

Tyler Mahle pitched five solid innings and the Reds rallied from a 2-0 deficit in the sixth. Cincinnati took two of three against the Pirates to win a series for the first time this season, improving the majors' worst record to 5-23.

Moran's bases-loaded drive off Heath Hembree in the sixth gave the Reds a 5-2 lead after Dillon Peters (3-1) walked three straight batters to force in a run. Moran hit his first two home runs this season and set a career high with six RBIs.

Mahle allowed only one hit, a two-run homer by Michael Perez. Art Warren (1-1) struck out three in two scoreless innings.

Cash, other prizes at CNMI Tourism Month Fun Run

Cash prizes await the fastest finishers and best tourism-costume creators at the Marianas Tourism Month Fun Run on Saturday, May 14.

The run, organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority in collaboration with the Office of the Governor, will award the Top 3 overall finishers for both male and female categories: $250 for first place, $150 for second place, and $100 for third place. The best tourist costume contest will also award $500 for first place, $300 for second place, and $200 for third place. Each participant will also receive a raffle ticket for a chance to win gift certificates from Sky Dive Saipan and Roil Soil Maoli (Indigo) concert. The first 300 participants on site will receive a "CNMI Tourism Month/Fit to Lead" T-shirt.

Race packet pick-up is scheduled for Friday, May 13, from 5pm to 7pm at the Cave Shop located on Beach Road in Garapan adjacent to the *Saipan Tribune* building.

"We invite everyone to come celebrate Marianas tourism at this Saturday's (May 14) fun run on Saipan. It's a chance to show your support for the industry, while also supporting two worthy causes in our community," said MVA managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo. "We also look forward to our upcoming activities on Tinian and Rota."

MVA

Management and staff of the Mariana Visitors Authority wave in support of Marianas Tourism Month on March 6, 2022, at the MVA office in San Jose.

Race proceeds will benefit the Diabetes Coalition and Run Saipan. Registration is $10, and available online at https://raceroster.com/events/2022/60364/fit-to-lead-5k-cnmi-tourism-month-fun-run. Participants may register in person at the MVA office at San Jose or the Office of the Governor at Capitol Hill during regular office hours or beginning at 6 a.m. on run day at the starting line.

The fun run will start at Garapan Fishing Base and follow Saipan Beach Road Pathway to the Japanese tank at Quartermaster Road intersection and back. The first wave of runners will start at 6:30am and the second wave at 7am.

The MVA is also holding a student logo contest. Students in grades 9-12 are asked to incorporate the slogans "Marianas Tourism Month" and "Tourism is Everybody's Business" in their vision of the future of travel. Prizes are: $500 for first place, $200 for second place, and $100 for third place. Entries must be submitted with a parental consent form by 5pm on May 23, 2022. Rules and parental release forms are downloadable under Featured Events at www.facebook.com/VisitTheMarianasor at www.mymarianas.com. ***(PR)***

DOLPHINS

From Page 20

fend like crazy and a Steven Balakrishna spike would make it 14-all. Both teams would remain deadlocked at 15-all and 16-all before Jasper Hall blocked Manzon in the net to make it 17-16. Manzon tried to redeem himself in the next play, but his wallop found the net to allow GCA to live another game.

In the deciding sudden death set, MHS 1 seemed to have put their late-game mistakes behind them and raced to an early 8-4. GCA appeared to have been stuck at 5 points forever, as Manzon had a spike party that ballooned the Dolphins' advantage to 11-5. It would be 13-6 soon after as Manzon continued to puzzle GCA defenders.

Senior Jasper Perez would then push MHS 1 to the brink of the title with his solid service game and his soaring spike against two GCA blockers would make it 21-9. GCA would not help their cause with a back-to-back reception errors to make it 24-9. Just as everyone thought the Dolphins had the championship in the bag, the Eagles had one last gasp in them and scored 6 straight points before a service error ended the game unceremoniously.

MHS 1 topped the playoffs after ambushing GCA in the winners bracket, 21-15, 10-21, 15-12. GCA then swept Mount Carmel School, 25-22, in the loser's bracket finals to punch its ticket to the championship game.

Dolphins coach Don Cabrera said like the regular season, his team always seem to want the harder way to victory.

"I do feel like both teams were equipped and very ready today. I do feel like we could've won the first game but GCA fought hard and gave us a scare in that last sudden death set. My team was able to pull it together and play their best and came away with a very comfortable victory…I told them [after the Game 1 loss] that it's moments like these that champions are made. You have to put everything on the line and put your best foot forward and regardless of the outcome you knew you played your best and live with no regrets."

On his strategy against GCA, Cabrera said he just focused in neutralizing their best player.

"I did notice that GCA has really one good hitter, Steven Balakrishna, so knowing that he's very good my game plan moving forward was when he's on the backline that we take advantage and try to score as many points before he goes back to the front and gives us scares because he's really good at picking spots and spiking it very hard."

He also said his lone freshman, Manzon, really stepped up in the finals as well as team captain Perez.

"The addition of Jerome has really worked wonders for us. He really diversified our attack because he's just like Steven he can pick where he wants to go and does what he wants to do. Senior-wise, we have our captain Jasper Perez and our STUCCO president Jigger Parayaoan leaving. I'm dedicating the win to the players. I'm just here to help guide them and it's not me that's performing it's them. This victory is for them and for everyone that they fought for."

Cabrera added that winning the championship was super sweet considering that boys high school volleyball was cancelled the past two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Perez, for his part, credited his teammates for the championship and thanked them for winning it all as he's about to graduate from MHS.

"I feel really great and I feel all our hard work paid off. I'm really proud of the team I played for and I'm grateful to have played with them. There were some nervous moments and we wanted to side-out as soon as possible just to get game point, but in the end they had a service error and thank God for that," he said.

Manzon considers winning a championship in his freshmen year a great accomplishment.

"It's a feeling I cannot describe, I felt that my grade level never really matters when playing a sport. It's all about skills and how dedicated you are to win and the will to cooperate with your teammates. I take my role being the youngest one in the team and the only freshmen in varsity, as a role model to other young players that are around my age, as long as you work hard, push hard, dedicate, there's nothing you can't accomplish."

Aside from Perez, Manzon, and Parayaoan, the rest of the MHS 1 team is made up of Erlwin Aguirre, William Arriola, Anthony Deleon Guerrero, John Justo, Lowell Lumauag, Juruel Magtalas, Dylan Mister, and Raiki Tababa.

The Public School System Boys High School Volleyball League 2021-2022 is being held with help from the Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association.

BLUE

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sweep of Eagle Construction, they accomplished that.

Last Saturday's game was actually competitive compared to Friday's, as Blue Haus didn't run away with it after the first quarter and only led by 14 points, 30-16.

Eagle Construction continued to hang with Blue Haus in the second as ageless warrior Alex Ocampo was on target with 6 points, while Blue Haus got 11 points combined from former national player Ed Diaz and bull-strong Guiab.

Blue Haus gave its reserves some burn at the start of the third but even with second- and third-stringers in, Eagle Construction barely made a dent on their opponents' lead as they faced a 76-61 deficit entering the fourth and final quarter.

Eagle Construction launched a spirited rally at the mid-point of the payoff period to cut Blue Haus' lead to as low as 9 points on several occasion. Ocampo again turned back the hands of time with 14 big points in the fourth, but Blue Haus answered the comeback attempt with a flurry of points of their own as they slammed the door shut on their opponents to win the game and the finals running away.

John Santos bombed away from the land of plenty to match Diaz's team-high 19 points, while Guiab and Diaz's older brother, Tony, chipped in 14 and 12 points, respectively. Ocampo was the lone shining light in Eagle Construction's otherwise futile run in Game 2 of the championship as he wound up with a game-high 24 points. Leo Itaas and Teng Alegre fired 13 and 11 markers apiece in the loss.

In Game 1, Blue Haus won the match literally in the opening quarter as they blasted a hapless Eagle Construction side, 40-10. The lead would only balloon further as the game went on. To add insult to injury (or injury to injury), Eagle Construction would lose main man Reynaldo Santos to an injury, which only served to handicap them more in Game 2 the very next day. Ed Diaz again paced seven Blue Haus players in double figures with 19 points, while Mike Surima led Eagle Construction with 12 markers.

Game 2 of the best-of-three championship in the open division between Lakay/Islander and Team Marianas will be played starting 6pm tonight at the Civic Center Basketball Court in Susupe.

FRIDAY

Blue Haus 114 – E. Diaz 19, Guiab 16, Esdrelon 15, T. Diaz 15, Peredo 12, Elchico 10, Berline 10, Buenabajo 6, Santos 6, Jumacquio 4.

Eagle Construction 77 – Surima 13, Alegre 11, Santos 10, Sublemente 8, L. Itaas 6, Umali 6, Sampang 5, Jacob 4, J. Itaas 3,

Scoring by quarters: 40-10, 72-24, 97-56, 114-77.

SATURDAY

Blue Haus 98 – J. Santos 19, E. Diaz 19, Guiab 14, T. Diaz 13, Peredo 6, Esdrelon 5, Alano 5, Elchico 4.

Eagle Construction 89 – Ocampo 24, L. Itaas 13, Alegre 11, Garcia 8, Umali 8, Surima 8, Sublemente 4, Ramos 3, Jacob 2, Sampang 2.

Scoring by quarters: 30-16, 51-38, 76-61, 98-89.

IT&E

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president James Lee said.

The league kicked off with the girls middle school tournament, which started a couple of weeks late, while the high school division matches in November and December were halted for safety concerns due to the rise of the COVID-19 cases and had to undergo a revised format. The co-ed elementary and middle school divisions also had schedule changes, but ended up their competition in style as they drew the most and second-best number of student-participants, respectively. The boys middle school had 151 students from 12 teams and 10 schools from Saipan and Tinian, while the co-ed elementary drew 147 students from 14 teams and 9 schools in all three islands. The girls middle school league featured 76 players, while the girls and boys high school divisions combined for 175 students, bringing the total of NMI students that participated in the program in the 2021-2022 season to 549.

With IT&E's continued support to the NMI youth, its corporate sponsorship to the league had assisted the NMIBF in awarding trophies and medals to the champion teams—Francisco M. Sablan Middle School (boys), Grace Christian Academy (girls middle school), Koblerville Elementary School-1 (co-ed elementary), Tinian High School (boys HS) and Marianas High School (girls HS). Each member of the champion squads and their coaches got medals. Trophies were awarded to runner-up teams, too. In the past, only the champion teams were honored and they only received trophies.

"With IT&E committing to the program, we are able to provide players and coaches trophies and medals, which are the rewards for their hard work for the season. Thank you IT&E and we look forward to our continued partnership as we work together in growing and improving our interscholastic program," said Lee.

The NMIBF president also thanked the CNMI PSS leadership for its support and at this early will be working with Gross and the school coaches in planning for the league's next season. Lee and other NMIBF officials were scheduled to meet with the Athletic Program director and school coaches at the Northern Marianas Sports Association conference room last night to discuss coaching and referee training courses and other matters related to the program. ***(PR)***

Harden, Embiid power 76ers past Heat, even series 2-2

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Cash, other prizes at CNMI Tourism Month Fun Run

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Dolphins 1 hoists HS v-ball championship

MARK RABAGO

Marianas High School 1 players and coach Don Cabrera pose with their championship plaque after winning the Public School System Boys High School Volleyball League 2021-2022 title against Grace Christian Academy last Saturday at the MHS Gymnasium. At left is Northern Mariana Island Volleyball Association president Somia Quan.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Marianas High School 1 beat Grace Christian Academy in an epic title showdown for the Public School System Boys High School Volleyball League 2021-2022 championship last Saturday at the MHS Gymnasium.

The Eagles needed to beat the Dolphins in the first game to force a do-or-die, race-to-25 set for the diadem and GCA did just that, but barely.

» Throttles GCA in sudden death

While coach Cesar Libut and company took the first set of Game 1, 21-16, MHS 1 returned the favor with a 21-14 victory in the second set.

The Dolphins would outright win the 2022 championship if they managed to win the third set and seemed on their way when freshman Jerome Manzon tattooed the volleyball in the middle of GCA's defenders to make it 13-11.

But the Eagles would de-

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Blue Haus caps 13-0 season with title

MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Blue Haus completed a two-game sweep in the best-of-three championship of the masters division of the Inaugural SCLC Basketball League after beating Eagle Construction, 98-89, last Saturday at the Gillette Multi-Purpose Gymnasium in Gualo Rai.

That win came a day after the No. 1 seeds blasted the surprise finalists, 114-77, last Friday also at the Gualo Rai gym. The two wins capped Blue Haus' utter dominance in the 45-and-over division, as the powerhouse team went 13-0 the entire season—10-0 in the regular season and 3-0 in the one-game playoffs and the finals.

MARK RABAGO

Blue Haus players pose for a team photo after beating Eagle Construction in Game 2 of the masters division finals of the Inaugural SCLC Basketball League last Saturday at the Gillette Multi-Purpose Gymnasium in Gualo Rai.

Playing coach Junar Guiab thanked team sponsors Blue Haus, especially its owner Cecile Camama, and Ali'i and owner Rob Harrell for continuing to support the squad. He added that their focus from the get-go was to complete a perfect season and following their two-game

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IT&E praised for commitment to interscholastic hoops

The 2021-2022 IT&E Interscholastic Basketball League is now in the books, as the five-division competition concluded early this month with more than 500 students from Rota, Tinian, and Saipan participating in the program.

The CNMI Public School System through Athletic Program director Nick Gross and staff and the Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation teamed up in holding basketball games across five divisions—girls and boys middle school, boy and girls high school, and co-ed elementary—with IT&E serving as sole corporate sponsor of the entire league.

"We are grateful to IT&E for standing by its commitment to the interscholastic basketball program despite of the challenges we experienced with the schedule of the games due to the COVID-19 pandemic," NMIBF

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A Garapan Elementary School player, third left, dribbles while Rota's Sinapalo Elementary School defenders chase him during their game in the 2021-2022 IT&E Interscholastic Co-ed Basketball League last month at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.